

the chronicle

Rockers return

The beat goes on for band from 1960s

See page 6

Villagers campaign to save their pub

AN ONLINE campaign group has been launched supporting the re-opening of a popular village pub that closed suddenly.

Around 200 people have pledged support to the Railway Inn in Victoria Road, Pelsall, on Facebook.

Mystery surrounds the closure of the pub just over a week ago.

Supporter Karen Hill said: "I am passionate about the importance it plays in our community."

"It has been in existence for most of the last century. I have friends who have been regulars for over 60 years.

Note

"When talking to people I meet in everyday life from around the Midlands it is often the case that when I mention I live in Pelsall, the reply is 'Pelsall, that's where the Railway pub is!'"

Owners Enterprise Inns said it has been informed of the closure but needed to meet with the landlord.

A note in the window read: "We have ceased trading. Thanks for your support, Tom."

Landlord Thomas Osborne was unavailable for comment.

Father is to cycle length of Britain

A FATHER is preparing to cycle 888 miles to raise cash for the Willenhall school that his children attend.

Neil Stainke, aged 37, of Bilton, will be cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats with his father-in-law Brian Handley, from Willenhall, to raise funds for Woodlands School. The pair will set off on their 10-day journey on Monday.

Mr Stainke, whose four-year-old son Ethan and eight-year-old daughter Amie attend Woodlands School, said: "The school is looking to raise money for IT equipment."



Captain Jenny

All aboard city canal boat for parties afloat

See page 8



Arson attack

Firecrews battle to save a former factory

See page 14



Mayor's chauffeur faces sentence for assault



Assault - Jaswinder Jassal

THE mayor of Walsall's chauffeur has been found guilty of assault and intimidating a witness in a money dispute.

In a police interview Jaswinder Jassal said he 'vaguely' remembered an argument after asking the victim for money to help towards his mortgage, as he could not cover it himself. He was denied and twice struck his victim's head.

Mr Geoffrey Messon, prosecuting, then said that Jassal, aged 43, of Lime Grove, Rushall, dragged his victim by the arm, and pushed them to the floor and kicked them twice in the back.

The victim, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was left with bruises to their arms, legs,

hand and knee. When he was arrested by police Jassal told them: "I'm hardly going to punch them, because I'm special in Walsall", Birmingham Magistrates Court heard.

He was found guilty of assault after a trial last week.

Crying

His victim told the court: "I was really scared. I thought he could kill me and I was crying as well."

"I went to a friend's house and asked please help me; call the police."

Jassal also admitted sending intimidating text messages to a witness which he suspected would

be passed on to his victim, between February 2 and 10. Those messages said the victim should drop charges and apologise to police.

Mr John Harmshaw, defending, said the victim had exaggerated their injuries.

District Judge Lesley Mottram told Jassal: "I reject your account in its entirety."

"I am satisfied beyond any doubt you assaulted the complainant."

The case was adjourned for reports and Jassal was given conditional bail until June 26 when he will be sentenced.

Walsall Council said it was unable to comment.

TATTERS GRAB METAL AT TIP

DESPERATE scrap metal collectors are pouncing on drivers outside a council tip to snatch scrap metal from them, minutes before they hand it in for recycling.

by Catherine Dalton

The tatters are surprising motorists near Walsall Council tip on Merchants Way, Aldridge. It is claimed they are also frightening some people in their pursuit of high value scrap metal. In a May newsletter for local residents, Neighbourhood Sergeant Nigel Ryder said some tatters had even tried to take some items from residents' cars, and are "causing distress to members of the public using facilities".

Officers say a crackdown has helped reduce the problem.

Patrols

Police have warned anyone obstructing members of the public on their way to the tip that they could be charged with a public order crime and face being prosecuted.

Nicky Biddlestone,

spokeswoman for West Midlands Police, said: "There

have been a number of high

visibility police patrols

including random spot

checks.

"There has been one further call about this since April so this is proving an effective deterrent," she added.

Walsall Council has been investigating the possibility of introducing a licensing system for tatters. This would involve creating a new by-law and would see scrap dealers have a permit in their windows to show they are registered.

As metal prices have soared, last year there were 1,125 reported metal thefts in Walsall, including at least six from war memorials.

More than £150,000 was spent replacing stolen manhole and drain covers.

Beacon ablaze as borough joins celebrations



Barr Beacon on Monday night joined the nationwide network of blazing beacons for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, when the beacon was lit in front of a crowd of 200. It was a weekend of jubilee fun in Walsall, see page 3 for pictures

Beacon picture: M Bowers

Welcome for 100 temporary new jobs

COUNCIL chiefs have welcomed news that a retailer is to create up to 100 jobs at its distribution hub in Walsall.

The seasonal roles will start at fashion and decor trader TK Maxx in Green Lane, Birchills, at the end of August and will be for the busy autumn and Christmas periods at its processing centre.

Walsall Council leaders said they hoped to see some of the roles become permanent.

Stability

Finance chief Councillor Chris Towe said: "We welcome any job creation in the borough in the current climate."

He added: "Whilst we are pleased about these temporary jobs, which will give short term relief at a time when people need financial stability, we would also be looking for some of these roles to become permanent."

Applications were due to be submitted this week after a large banner went up outside the building advertising the jobs.

Plastic pipe firm moving to bigger site

A PLASTIC pipework company is moving to Moxley under an expansion programme which promises four new jobs.

John Davidson Pipes (JDP) is planning to move from Bridge Street North, Smethwick, to a larger site on the former Hewden Hire Depot on Church Street.

Developers want to knock down the single-storey office building and replace it with a workshop with a trade counter and office.

The scheme is going to cost hundreds of thousands of pounds, agents for the developers said.

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CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Memory Lane	6
Clubs	12
Letters	23
TV Listings	24-26
Puzzles	27
Property	28-35
Classified	36-39
Motoring	40-42
Sport	43-44

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Owner of dangerous dog found guilty

A JAPANESE Akita dog attacked a woman in a communal area of flats, leaving her needing 14 stitches, a court was told.

Victim Elizabeth Smith was heading for the garden with her two Staffordshire bull terriers when the incident happened, magistrates heard.

The 22-year-old defendant, Nicole Smith, denied allowing the Japanese Akita, named Munch, to be dangerously out of control at the block of flats where she and the victim live in Bloxwich Road South, Willenhall.

But she was found guilty after a trial last week at Walsall Magistrates Court.

Mr Van French, prosecuting, said the defen-

dant's dog had attacked Elizabeth Smith in the communal area where she was with her own two dogs.

Mr French said one of Mrs Smith's dogs was 14 and blind, while the other was scared of other dogs.

As she opened the door to let her dogs out, which she says were on leads, the Japanese Akita came from the area where they keep the rubbish bins and immediately came straight at Elizabeth Smith, he said.

Giving evidence, Mrs Smith said the Japanese Akita had not been on a lead and Smith was nowhere to be seen when it attacked.

She told the court that the defendant's partner

tried to get the dog off her and Nicole Smith later offered help.

Mrs Smith said she received 14 stitches at hospital, and added: "I still get pain when I bend my arm."

Defending Smith, David Grice suggested Munch had been on a lead.

He said Mrs Smith's younger dog, was not on a lead and had attacked the Akita, biting it on the neck.

But magistrates said the defendant's claim was not credible and found her guilty before adjourning the case.

Nicole Smith was due to be sentenced this week.

Praise for helping children

A PROGRESS report on how new recommendations on child protection are being enacted upon across the country has singled Walsall Council out for praise.

The Munro report, published by the Department of Education, highlights work being done to help meet the needs of children.

It noted the help given to children at risk by teams in Walsall.

Children's minister Tim Loughton said: "This report shows progress is being made towards freeing hard-working social workers and other professionals from excessively restrictive structures, procedures and rulebooks so they can do their best for vulnerable children and their families.

"It is encouraging to see evidence in Professor Munro's report that services are increasingly stepping in early, rather than waiting for problems to escalate."

Executive director for children's services at Walsall Council Pauline Pilkington said: "We are delighted."

Hooligans arrested ahead of Euro football matches

Ready for the carnival parade



Walsall schoolchildren get set to be Carnival Ambassadors at Bloxwich Carnival

TWELVE school children have been

take part in the parade and receive medals

on the day.

Organiser Debbie Baugh said: "They

were selected by their headteachers for

achievements they have made at school."

Preparations are well under way for this

year's carnival which will be free admission.

Two firms one roof

TWO engineering firms in Walsall are relocating under one roof in a move poised to create new jobs following a £100,000 investment.

More than 60 staff from Mellish Engineering Services and Tipper Engineering will move to a new site in Middlemore Lane this month

Turnover

The firms have taken on five staff since the start of the year and up to eight more roles will be created over the next 12 months.

Turnover from the two companies reached around £5 million last year.

Saddlers fans help charities

AROUND £1,000 has been raised for charity by Saddlers fans at the Walsall Football Supporters Trust over the last 12 months.

Donations have been made to stillbirth and neonatal death charity Sands, Alzheimer Research, Christmas Toy Appeal and Macmillan Cancer Research, Walsall FC boss Stefan Gamble said: "The trust has worked hard to raise and deserves plenty of praise."

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Borough celebrates the Queen's 60 glorious years



Bev Bellamy, Emma Shoemaker, Amy Forrester, Charlie Green and Emily Stone, of Review Hair Design, Turnberry Road



The Watts family enjoying a right royal day out on Pelsall Common. At the back is Jess Watts, aged 17, with Emilia, 10, Alyssa Watts, 11, and Eloise Watts, seven



Getting a slice of the action – tea party volunteers including, front, Pauline Ireland, at Pheasey Park Farm Community Centre



Mia Guy-Hickson (left) and Mamie Carter-Keen face up to fun at St Martin's Church Hall during a jubilee party



Cheers! Celebrating on Pelsall Common are Scott Humpage, Sharon Humpage, Liam Humpage and Sylvia Styzaker



Come rain or shine the people of Pelsall were determined to mark the Queen's day, donning blankets and grabbing hot drinks



In the swing of things, Christine Pearce of Cherry Tree Avenue



A sea of red, white and blue and with flags flying, Greenside Way in Walsall hosts a parade to mark 60 years reign by Queen Elizabeth



Library assistant Manny Ghuman leads the fun at Brownhills Library


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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



A LARGISH lady came wobbling down the street towards me with a T-shirt which seemed to have a life of its own and had the slogan: "Make Cupcakes, Not War." I would not mind betting that, in the past 50 years, sugar has killed far more Brits than war.

□□□□□□□

IN FACT, the wartime civilian generation which survived on a low-sugar, low-fat diet of just 1,200 calories a day from 1939-45 is one of the fittest we have ever produced. This explains why there are so many of them still about.

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I FEEL sorry for those Olympic flame bearers who are being pilloried for trying to sell their torches on eBay. The argument seems to be that making money is at odds with the Olympic ideal. Poppycock. From the massive salaries awarded to the organisers, to the vast sponsorship deals for those famous health-food companies Cadbury and Coca-Cola, the 2012 Olympics is 100 per cent about money.

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WE ALL remember the number plate of our first car (CNP 464, since you ask), but a survey this week reveals that one-third of British drivers cannot give the number of their present vehicle. No surprises there. The new format (BG60FLR, etc) was launched on the promise that it would be easier to remember. We knew at the time it was a Whitehall whopper and now the truth is revealed.

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ANOTHER survey reports that thousands of Brits cannot afford to retire. I have a theory that retiring is like having kids. If you wait until you can afford it, you'll never do it.

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I FIRST met Tony Blair in the 1990s when he was shadow home secretary. He struck me as shifty back then, remained shifty in Downing Street and was as shifty as ever at the Leveson Inquiry. He is, above all, consistent.

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A READER reports what she calls "an irresistible incentive for buying a new house". The builders' advert declares: "Pay your deposit before August, and we will turf your rear." As she points out, the Spanish have a word for it. Gracias.

□□□□□□□

HOME Secretary Theresa May says measures are in hand to deal with any influx of Greek citizens if Greece withdraws from the euro. Daft idea. Here's a better plan. Let's welcome all the young, educated, well-motivated Greeks with open arms. At the same time, let's send a few shiploads of our own feckless, illiterate, home-grown skivers in the other direction with a one-way ticket to the Greek islands and £1,000 worth of lager vouchers. Result: no net increase in UK population and happiness all round.

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A READER paints this charming picture of Britain in sunshine. The band was playing in her town square. Grown-ups and toddlers sat on the walls to watch the show. The local drug dealers arrived, smiling cheerfully in the sunshine and began flogging dope to their regulars. And although everyone could see the buying and selling of drugs in the broadest of broad daylight, the band played on. The police band, since you ask.

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Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

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Pledge over school buildings after snub

EDUCATION chiefs have pledged to make Walsall schools the envy of the UK – despite missing out on millions of pounds of funding to repair crumbling buildings.

Five schools in the borough had applied to be included in the Government's £1.1 billion Priority Schools Building Programme. The local authority had asked for a £60.2 million share on behalf of the schools.

Some of them had missed out on funding as part of the failed Building Schools for the Future programme.

But it has now emerged that no Walsall schools have been allocated any part of the cash pot.

An official letter sent to children's services from the Department of Education said money was allocated to applications which "focussed entirely on the condition of buildings...not solely on basic need."

Applications were made on behalf of Joseph Leckie Academy, Pool Hayes Arts and Community School in Willenhall, Rushall JMI School, The Mirus Academy in Bloxwich, and Willenhall E-ACT Academy.

Projects

Pauline Pilkington, executive director for children's services at the council, said: "We are all extremely disappointed as the money would have funded a range of vital projects,

as our priority schools require significant improvement.

"Our capital grant allocations have already been reduced, affecting our ability to ensure we provide all our pupils with the best possible learning environments."

Education chief Councillor Rachel Andrew said: "We remain confident we can satisfy our ambition for making all Walsall school buildings the envy of the UK."

Second technical college is planned for teenagers

A SECOND multi-million pound University Technical College that will specialise in construction skills is on its way to Walsall.

The West Midlands UTC is set open its doors in September 2014. It is believed the new college will share the site of the existing Black Country UTC in Bloxwich, which specialises in both engineering and manufacturing.

The £9.5m Black Country UTC is based on the site of the former Sneyd Community School, in Vernon Way, Bloxwich.

It is hoped the new college will bring more jobs and

Gallery's focus on sports



Hannah Anderson takes a look at some of the boxing photographs in Walsall New Art gallery's sports themed exhibition, which includes the photos of local boxers

AN ARRAY of paintings, photos and art creations with a sporting theme are on display at Walsall's New Art Gallery.

The Good Sport exhibition, which has been organised to coincide with the Olympic and Paralympic Games, is on show until September 1 at the Gallery Square venue.

Features sports range from football to

pigeon racing, via wrestling and boxing. The sporting communities of Walsall are celebrated with portraits of boxers from Pleck Boxing Club, a Walsall FC memorabilia collection and a look at pigeon fanciers.

Works by artists Neville Gabie and Leo Fitzmaurice will be shown alongside works from Walsall's own collections.

Bomb hoax accused is given bail

A MAN accused of bringing Walsall town centre to a standstill after a suspect package was left in a bank has been released before the town's magistrates.

Hilmi Wali Khalid, aged 43, of Union Street, in Paddock, Walsall, is charged with bomb hoax on May 3. He also faces a charge of possessing class B drug cannabis. He denies both charges.

He appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court last week where Mr Jason Cordon-Bowen, prosecuting, told the bench the case was not suitable for their jurisdiction.

Khalid was given conditional bail until July 24 when the case will be committed to the crown court.

Hundreds of shoppers and workers were evacuated for more than two hours after a security alert at The Co-operative Bank, on The Bridge, earlier this month.

BBC Radio 1 visit for students

MEDIA students from Walsall College were given a taste of national radio broadcasting as they joined top DJ Tim Westwood on the airwaves after student Raffina Graham won a Radio 1 competition for a visit to BBC studios.

Raffina and fellow college radio presenters spent a day at the London studios, meeting Westwood and going on air to speak about their own experiences and topics which they cover.

Lecturer

Radio lecturer Lyndon Bayliss said: "This was an incredible opportunity for students to have a go at co-presenting on radio and what better platform than one of the UK's most listened to shows."

"It also gave the students a greater insight into what a career in the radio industry involves."

Table top sale

SELLERS can run a table at a sale taking place in Walsall on Sunday, June 10.

The table top sale is part of the Jubilee Jamboree, taking place at Bentley Leisure Pavilion, in Bentley Road North. Tables are available for £5 and the sale starts 11am. Call (01922) 474684.

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A TRIAL of plastic drain covers to replace metal ones stolen by thieves in Walsall will run until the end of the year, say council chiefs.

The council is currently trialling a plastic drain cover in Wolverhampton Street, Walsall.

A plastic manhole cover is also being trialled in Pelsall Road, Brownhills.

Chiefs have now revealed the trial period, which began last November, will run until the end of the year.

Exhibit on is to feature local art

AMATEUR artists in Darlaston who want to exhibit their work are being asked to come forward for an annual display taking place in July.

People are being asked to submit artwork for the show, from July 3 to 27, at Darlaston Library in King Street. There is a handling fee of £2.50.

To take part amateur artists should send a stamped address envelope to 11 Sandwell Avenue, Darlaston WS10 7RH.

Stadium pitch gets ryegrass

PITCH LAYING work is being done at Walsall Football Club's Banks's Stadium during the close season.

After junior cup final matches and charity games the playing turf was finally getting a makeover in readiness for next season.

The Saddlers' pitch will be resown with ryegrass.

Wave off Wiggles

THE Wiggles, Australian entertainers who have been entertaining children for two decades, are handing over to a new generation.

But the originals have a farewell tour including the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham on Friday, June 15, at 1 and 4pm.

Poundland app

WILLENHALL-BASED discount store chain Poundland has launched a mobile app for iPhone and Android smart phones.

The free-to-download app will update shoppers on special offers at the chain, which has grown to more than 400 stores.

Money in place to complete park work

Families may get paid to wash nappies

CASH rewards could be offered by Walsall Council to encourage families to buy reusable nappies.

The authority is looking at a new campaign in which parents would be encouraged to use 'real' nappies to stop disposable nappy waste going to landfill.

Council spokesman Steve Sharma confirmed: "We have supported real nappy campaigns in the past and we are currently investigating taking up a similar cash reward scheme at Walsall Council."

ALL

money needed for the multi-million pound transformation of Walsall Arboretum has now been secured.

Walsall Council had to find £3 million towards the £7.6m revamp, which began over 18 months ago.

When a formal application was being developed at the beginning of 2009 the amount needed from the council was still £1.1m.

The project was allowed to start by the Heritage Lottery Fund as long as the outstanding amount was found by next year's completion date.

Landscaping

Bosses say the total sum for match-funding has been secured from external sources towards the project, which includes landscaping and a new visitor centre.

Chris Holliday, head of leisure and community health, said: "The council doesn't have anything to pay back. The council will be completing the project as it moves through the various phases."

It recently emerged a separate scheme to replace the popular lido with water jets at the town's premier park will not be completed in time for the start of the school summer holidays.

Town for a pound to boost trade

PEOPLE

will be able to flag down a taxi and travel into Walsall town centre for just £1 from this week.

The Town for a Pound scheme is expected to help boost trade for hackney carriage drivers. It is also hoped this will increase town centre footfall.

Licensing chiefs have described it as a "win-win situation" for all.

Council spokeswoman Natalie Greenway confirmed the Town for a Pound scheme was due to start yesterday (Wednesday).

Idea

Mirza Khalid, chairman of the Hackney Carriage Association in Walsall, said drivers had the original idea.

It is aimed at combating the "dead mileage" of journeys back to the taxi rank.

A similar scheme has already proved successful in Bradford.

Walsall Council education councillor Rachel Andrew said winter months made staff more prone to illness. She added: "I cannot say off the top of my head whether it is a large amount."

Governor

"I do not know if that is what schools normally spend on supply staff by that time of the year. But from my experience as governor I can say that is generally when a lot of people are poorly."

Casual workers are brought in by schools to cover long-term absence, sickness, maternity leave and teacher training days, to make sure pupils do not miss vital lessons. Individual schools are responsible for making their own staffing arrangements including the hiring of temporary staff.

Thousands of pounds have been spent by councils across the region on stand-in support. The biggest spending Black Country borough was Sandwell, where temporary staff cost more than £5.6 million.

Neighbouring Sandwell has run a similar incentive scheme since 2006. Under it, residents can receive £30 from the council, as a refund on the initial purchase of real nappies.

Only a total of 91 applications were received in the past five years but that has cost Sandwell £2,730 on the refund.

Grandmother

Walsall has not yet set a price for the cash rewards it could hand out to families if council chiefs decide to go ahead.

Liz Penluna, a health co-ordinator for Birchills North SureStart Centre in Walsall, teaches relaxed birth and parenting and has midwifery qualifications. The grandmother-of-seven, from Walsall Wood, said she thought incentives would work well for parents.

She explained: "Disposable nappies are very expensive and they cause such big costs to the environment."

"From the feedback I get, mums find the biggest turn-off from real nappies is the

initial outlay, rather than washing them."

This move comes despite Knowaste opening the Black Country's first facility to recycle used disposable nappies, which is costing £5 million and creating 17 new jobs.

The site in Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, works by turning used disposable nappies into energy, producing enough electricity to supply 17,000 homes.

Hundreds of thousands of tons of used nappies will be processed to prevent them going to landfill.

Night market for Covent Garden type atmosphere

A NIGHT market will be introduced in Walsall – despite the borough missing out on cash in a scheme run by retail guru Mary Portas.

Business bosses say the idea of a night-time market, which would be in the style of London's Covent Garden, is one they are particularly keen to push ahead with.

Concern over cost of hiring supply teachers

NEARLY £600,000 was spent on supply teachers in Walsall in three months, new figures show.

The figure has sparked concerns that the cost of agency workers will top last year's bill.

Headteachers were forced to bring in cover for the first quarter of this year due to high staff absence in both primary and secondary schools, costing £578,017.

The revelation has prompted worries the bill for outside help could top the £2,522,466 shelled out for the previous academic year.

The top spending school was St Francis of Assisi Catholic Technology College. The school spent £49,929.98 between September and December last year. Willenhall E-ACT Academy came in second, having spent £47,466, while Frank F Harrison Engineering College was third, with a bill of £33,039.

The costs were revealed under the Freedom of Information Act. Data for the rest of the year is not yet available.

Walsall Council education councillor Rachel Andrew said winter months made staff more prone to illness. She added: "I cannot say off the top of my head whether it is a large amount."

Governor

"I do not know if that is what schools normally spend on supply staff by that time of the year. But from my experience as governor I can say that is generally when a lot of people are poorly."

Casual workers are brought in by schools to cover long-term absence, sickness, maternity leave and teacher training days, to make sure pupils do not miss vital lessons. Individual schools are responsible for making their own staffing arrangements including the hiring of temporary staff.

Thousands of pounds have been spent by councils across the region on stand-in support. The biggest spending Black Country borough was Sandwell, where temporary staff cost more than £5.6 million.

Detailed plans will be drawn up over the coming weeks and the council will enter into a second round of bidding for the £100,000 Portas cashpot to help fund projects.

The night market would likely be held every quarter and feature quirky craft and gift items, those behind the idea said.

Carl Mitchell, owner of Bounce hair salon in Bradford Street, was one of those behind the town's Portas bid, working under the banner of Walsall Town Centre Champions. He said: "The night-time market idea was one of the best things to come out of the Mary Portas bid."

Innovative

"It would be brilliant for Walsall and it's a really innovative new thing."

"We want it to be something really different, with stalls selling really interesting and quirky products. We'll also be looking at getting music and food there too. We want it to have a real Covent Garden feel."

He added: "Of course it would have been nice to have the money but we now need to focus on what we have got."

Other ideas included as part of the Portas pilot bid were a town centre loyalty card, a smartphone application for the town and extra training for independent retailers.

Jon Burnett, Walsall Council's regeneration officer for the town centre, confirmed the council was still keen to do a night time market.

More areas to get Portas funds are due to be announced next month.

Run register online

RUNNERS are being sought to take part in the 21st annual Aldridge road race on June 17. The 10k race will start at the Stick and Wicket Club, The Green, at 10.45am and there will also be a 4.3k fun run and children's races.

People can register at www.aldriderunningclub.co.uk

Blooming lovely for jubilee



Enid Barry, Avril Holloway, Joan Reynolds, Val Mason, Mavis Cowdrey, Glenys Barnard and Hazel Jones ready for the flower festival at Rushall Parish Church

BEAUTIFUL blooms will be decorating a Walsall church as part of ongoing celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

A Flower Festival at Rushall Parish Church, in Leigh Road, will be run in conjunction with Walsall Flower Club on Saturday and Sunday (June 9 and 10).

An exhibition of paintings by the Pleasure Painters, who meet in the hall, will also

be on display as well as stalls selling plants, crafts and homemade cakes.

Church spokesman Bob Barnard said: "We are very pleased to welcome the Flower Club and the Pleasure Painters to what we hope will be a wonderful celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee."

Admission will be £1.

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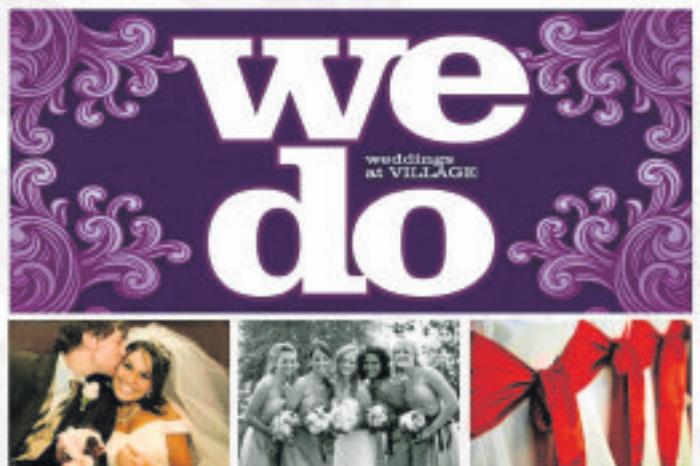
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thechronicle

Funeral and old advert bring 1960s beat band back together



That was then - This Kind, from left, Paul Stokes, Tony Somerfield, Alan Powell and John Simmonds



And this is now - reunited surviving members of This Kind, from left, Paul, Tony and Alan

WITH just 10 minutes to go before they went on stage, members of the band This Kind were trying to quash their nerves and get warmed up for their performance.

That was until a piece of fried fish flew through an open window and hit lead singer Alan Powell squarely on the face.

The fish was followed by masses of chips and as the band battled against the torrent of flying food they managed to look out of the window and see a crowd including Noddy Holder and Roger Daltrey standing outside throwing the lukewarm take-away at them.

"Fish and chip fights were very common among bands before a show as we all had different rehearsal rooms so it was easy to distract those who were preparing to go on stage," says Alan, 62.

"When people ask if any of the bands fought we say yes - but only fish and chip fights.

"In the 1960s we battled with Lady

by Cathy Spencer

Jane and the Royale, The Merseybeats, Slade, The Montanas and The Who, to name just a few."

The four members of This Kind grew up in Walsall and were all pupils at W R Wheway School.

They soon realised they all had an interest in music and in 1963 formed a group and saved up money to buy an amplifier by returning drinks bottles.

By 1967 they were touring towns and cities including London and Manchester, and they even did a tour of Germany.

Guitarist

Paul Stokes, 62, who lives in Aldridge says: "When we got a manager we went out on the road and could travel 300 miles in one night to get to a gig."

"We went to the American air base in Zweibrücken, Germany, and were there for one month performing soul and Motown."

The group had John Simmonds as lead guitarist but he passed away in

January this year after a battle with cancer, which brought the group together again.

Tony Somerfield, 63, who plays bass guitar says after meeting up at John's funeral an old advert appeared in a nostalgia article in the The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star, which brought the group back together.

The article in the paper was looking back at adverts which had been in the paper years ago and one of them was for our band," he says. "We spoke to each other on the phone and it inspired us to get back together again."

"Back in the 1960s Robert Mills dropped out quite early from the group but he will be joining us again to take John's place."

Tony, who lives in Cannock, says they still bump into Robert Plant at the Molinex and he saw Noddy Holder in Pelsall recently.

"If John could be here now he would have loved us getting back together - it was the best time of our lives but we just didn't know it."

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Sit-down mowers will be cut back at cemetery

Designer jewellery tips



Jewellery designer Jolene Smith shares her skills with students at Walsall Adult and Community College, in Hawbush Road, Walsall

A JEWELLERY designer has been showcasing her talents to students in Walsall in a bid to help them create their own collection.

Jolene Smith has been supporting adult learners during an Enterprise Jewellery Workshop at Walsall Adult and Community College.

The class is part of the college's Learn for Living and Work Reablement Programme that helps develop or regain skills lost as a result of an illness or trauma.

Jolene has designed jewellery for top department store Harrods and uses recycled materials.

THE USE of large sit-down mowers will be scaled back at a Walsall cemetery amid concerns about driving over graves, council chiefs have said.

Walsall Council insist they have had few complaints over Streetly Cemetery and the majority of mourners are satisfied with the grave maintenance service.

But a petition with more than 2,500 names has been collected by a community group raising concerns over mowers going over graves and visitors not being allowed to use edging stones.

The council have now agreed to use walk-behind mowers when cutting grass between the graves when possible. However, they insist maintenance staff may still have to walk on graves to be able to manually cut the grass to keep them in good condition.

Tidy

Leisure chief councillor Anthony Harris said they wanted all visitors to feel comfortable as they pay their respects and it was important to keep cemeteries neat and tidy. He said: "We fully respect the feelings and sensitivities of people who visit Streetly Cemetery."

"Streetly cemetery has been laid out as a lawned cemetery for many years, like the great majority of cemeteries in England, and as such we maintain the grass between the graves to create a tidy and attractive appearance."

"I am sure everyone will appreciate we do not need to cut the grass and for a cemetery like Streetly this is only really practical with machinery. However, we have taken on board the concerns expressed."

Watch group meet

THE New Caldmore neighbourhood watch group will be meeting on Monday (June 11) at Small Street Centre, in Corporation Street, from 1pm.

A JEWELLERY designer has been showcasing her talents to students in Walsall in a bid to help them create their own collection.

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thechronicle

All aboard Jenny's popular party boat

JUST one look at Jenny Hubbard's diary and she appears to be a social whirlwind with every weekend night booked up for weeks.

However, the 26-year-old business woman is busy every weekend due to the success of her narrowboat venture.

Jenny runs Central Boat Parties from her traditional style narrowboat, which is based at Gas Street Basin in Birmingham, and says it is becoming a popular choice for revellers looking for an alternative night out.

Jenny, who lives in Sutton Road, Walsall, says she grew up surrounded by canal boats thanks to her dad Stephen.

"My dad is a boat builder and when my sister Katherine and I were little we would go out with him on his narrowboat," she says.

"We would travel to picturesque places like Brewood and Fradley and I loved the lifestyle that came with boating."

"We would often go past people who had boats that my dad had built, and the owners would be selling jams, pickles, arts and crafts - I liked being a part of the boating community."

When Jenny left school at Barr Beacon Language College she worked in Austria during the ski seasons earning money as a bar manager or chalet host. Three years ago she left the snow slopes behind to start her own business.

"Boat parties are a great alternative to having a celebration inside a building," she says. "My dad has been building boats from scratch for 30 years at his yard in Birchills, by the old canal museum. He made Frederick the narrowboat specifically for me to start a business."

The boat is named after

Jenny's grandad, who passed away three years ago, and it is 70ft long and 6ft wide with a bar and piano.

As a child Jenny would spend time with her father at work, watching him design a boat and then build it.

"I used to go to work with him and would help out by making teas and coffees," she says. "That experience gave me an idea of how the party boat could be designed to maximise the space, and so we put our heads together and came up with the idea of putting benches down the side of the boat."

Cruise

"At 58-years-old my dad is coming up to retirement and with Frederick he can still work on the boat after he has retired as he is a great engineer as well."

Jenny held her first party on the boat in November 2010 and said she has been gradually getting busier.

"It was really nerve wracking getting ready for that first event as it was a surprise 30th birthday party so there was added pressure," she says.

"We took the party on a three-hour cruise from Birmingham city centre out to Selly Oak and back and they loved it."

Due to the demand Jenny says they are getting ready



Toasting success - businesswoman and narrowboat owner Jenny Hubbard with her boat the Frederick

to ensure the boat doesn't get grounded.

"We have someone to steer the boat, as you have to have a licence," she says.

"The outdoor section is a big selling point, especially for smokers. It is really nice to cruise along when the city is all lit up, and people who are walking along the side of the canal usually wave - they like to see others enjoying themselves."



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Borough team look back at first London Olympics



The Aldridge team who have produced the book on the 1908 London Olympics. Front, from left, Matt Langham and Paul Leslieine; back, from left, Phil Bradney, Karen Woodcock and Steve Toulouse

A UNIQUE record of London's first Olympic Games has been created by an Aldridge business specialising in historic images.

Former Labour sports minister Kate Hoey has written the foreword for A Guide to London 1908 which has just been published by Mapseeker Archive Publishing.

The 146-page book, put together in remembrance of the Olympic Games 1908, was created by Mapseeker which was set up two years ago by Paul Leslieine and John Swann.

With a team, including graphic artists and researchers, they have put together the guide as part of their Armchair Travellers Street Atlas series.

As well as maps of the capital from 104 years ago the book features photographs and documents from the Edwardian era.

Mr Line said that the Olympic movement risked dying out when Rome pulled out of staging the games back in 1906, but the British Olympic Council stepped in to save the day.

"We have included original letters written by Lord Desborough, the chairman of the BOC and reproduced posters and the programme for the games," explained Mr Line.

Route

One of the most time-consuming exercises was creating a map of the Olympic Marathon route from Windsor Castle to the Olympic Stadium at Shepherd's Bush – the first run over 26 miles and 385 yards.

The marathon was one of the most memorable events of the 1908 Games and saw the Italian runner Pietro Dorando who was first across the line disqualified after he collapsed several times and was helped by officials.

■ **by John Corser**
gials. The gold medal went instead to United States runner Johnny Hayes.

Mr Line said that many of the images had been provided by the University of Birmingham from a scrapbook that was originally made by official timekeeper William Barnard. He was later Amateur Athletic Association chairman and to whom the book is dedicated.

Mapseeker in return donated a large collection of historic maps of Birmingham to the university.

The book also features input from the Wenlock Olympian Society on the role of Dr William Penny Brookes from Much Wenlock in the revival of the modern Olympic Games.

Collins Bartholomew, with whom Mapseeker work closely, have allowed the reproduction of the original atlas and guide.

■ **A Guide to London 1908** is being sold through Waterstones and WH Smith and can be ordered through Amazon and Mapseeker's own website www.mapseeker.co.uk

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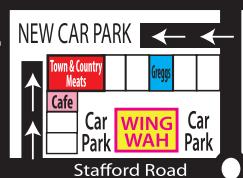
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Arson attack blaze



Firefighters tackle the fierce blaze at four-storey William House, a 150-year-old former leather factory behind the New Art Gallery in Walsall town centre

FIRE ripped through a 150-year-old former leather factory in an arson attack in Walsall town centre, sparking the evacuation of a nearby apartment block.

Up to 70 firefighters battled to save four-storey William House in Marsh Street, near the New Art Gallery last week, after the alarm was raised at around 5.30pm on Wednesday, May 30.

At least 10 people, including a two-week-old baby, were ordered to leave their homes by police and fire officers. Another 50 residents were prevented from entering the block after returning from work or shopping trips.

A number were taken to Walsall Town Hall where refreshments were provided before they were allowed to go home shortly after 10pm.

Crowds watched the drama from the Wharf 10 Bar opposite. The fire is believed to have been started deliberately.

A 20-strong gang of youths was spotted outside the disused building about

30 minutes before flames were seen coming from a window.

Paul Askey, a 46-year-old pharmaceutical warehouseman, said he saw teenagers collect outside four-storey William House in Marsh Street before the fire started.

"A very large group of youths aged around 15 to 20 were hanging around outside the building about half an hour before the fire started," he said.

Parents

"Some of them then climbed on to an adjoining flat roof and then ran off. The next thing I saw smoke and flames coming from the windows."

New parents Richard Lander and Samantha Millett were ordered to leave their third-floor apartment.

The couple, who have a two-week-old son Connor, were kept out of their home for almost five hours. Mr Lander, 27, said: "All we had was the baby's bottle."

Walsall Council's emergency planning officer Alan Boyd kept the town hall open for evacuated residents.

Hospital blood donor appeal

NHS Blood and Transplant is appealing for volunteers to give blood for local hospitals at donor sessions in Aldridge at The Community Centre Hall, Anchor Meadow, Middlemore Lane, on Friday, June 15. These will be held from 1.30pm to 3.30, or 4.30-7.30pm. Call 0300 123 23 23 to book an appointment.

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thechronicle

Museum looks at first royal diamond jubilee

WHILE the nation celebrates Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee, Walsall Museum will be giving people a taste of another monarch's milestone.

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee will be remembered through a special display of costumes from that era at the Lichfield Street venue.

Victoria was the first monarch to celebrate 60 years on the throne and the occasion, on June 22, 1897, was marked with nationwide festivities.

The display, entitled The Other Diamond Jubilee, 1897, is now on show in Walsall Museum's Changing Face of Walsall gallery September 5.

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(Morning Group)
Consultant Vicky 07894 277072

New Group Times*
All Saints Parish Church Hall
Elmoro Row, **BLOXWICH**
Tuesdays 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Consultant Jackie 07973 927364

New Group Times*
Darlaston Sports & Social Club
16 The Leys, **DARLASTON**
Tuesdays 5.30pm & 7.30pm
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Lichfield Road, **SHEFFIELD**
Tuesdays 9.30am
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Consultant Alison 07982 755677

New Group Times*
Sheffield Methodist Church
Lichfield Road, **SHEFFIELD**
Tuesdays 7.30pm
Consultant Alison 07982 755677

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New Group Times
St Andrews Church Hall
Wolverhampton Rd West
Corner of Church Street, **BENTLEY**
Tuesdays 3.00pm, 5.00pm & 7.00pm
Consultant Liz 01902 351280

Willenhall Community Centre
Gomer Street, **WILLENHALL**
Wednesdays 9.00pm
Off Sutton Road, **WALSALL**
Tuesdays 7.00pm
Consultant Simon 07910 768821

WEDNESDAY
Holy Ascension Church
Sanstone Road, Lower Farm
BLOXWICH
Wednesdays 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Consultant Julie 07792 762144

St Chad's Hall
Edison Road, **BECHDALE**
Wednesdays 7.30pm
Bentley Road North, **BENTLEY**
Thursdays 7.30pm
Consultant Jackie 07973 927363

St Michaels Church Hall
On Pelsall Common
Church Road, **PELSELL**
(Morning Group)
Wednesdays 9.00am & 11.00am
Consultant Karen 07908 943374

St Michaels Church Hall
On Pelsall Common
Church Road, **PELSELL**
Wednesdays 5.00pm & 6.30pm
Consultant Karen 07908 943374

Coalpool Methodist Church
Coalpool Lane, **WALSALL**
Thursdays 7.00pm
Consultant Natalie 07778 826464

Stafford Royal Sports Club
Stafford Road, **BLOXWICH**
Thursdays 6.00pm
Consultant Vicky 07894 277072

THURSDAY

Aldridge Community Centre
Anchor Meadow, Middlelane Lane
ALDRIDGE
Thursdays 7.00pm
Consultant Simon 07910 768821

New Day & Time
Bentley Road North, **BENTLEY**
Bentley Road North, **BENTLEY**
Thursdays 7.30pm
Consultant Jackie 07973 927363

FRIDAY

Wolverhampton 13th June 2012*
St Stephens Church
Wolverhampton Rd West
(Morning Group)

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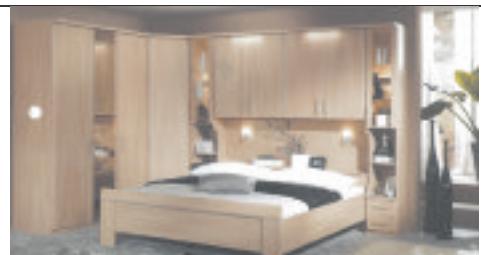


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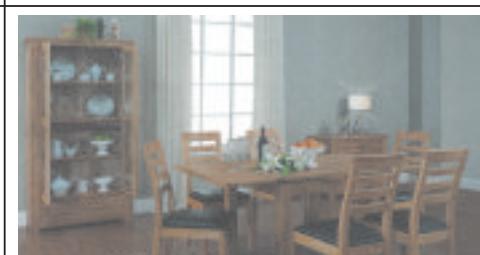
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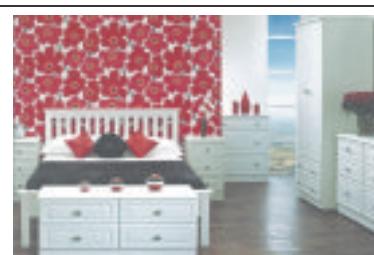
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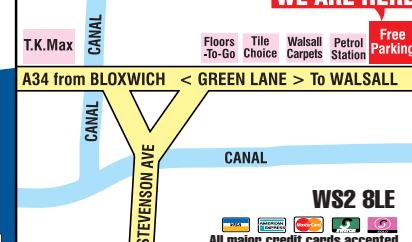
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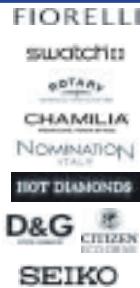
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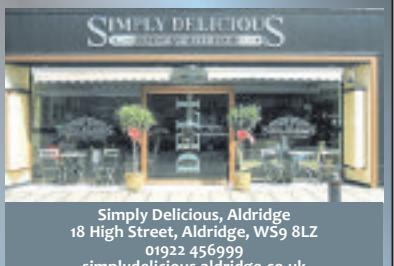
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Pupils' garden a place for prayers



Father Michael Leadbeater is pictured with pupils Rose Cartwright and Ashwin Bincent. At the back (left) is former pupil Joe Vale, who designed the garden, and Samuel Chetter

CHILDREN held a ceremony in the spring sunshine to mark the opening of their new peace garden.

Pupils at St Mary's of the Angels School, Aldridge, Walsall, now have a new area where they can pray or spend quiet time.

The garden was extended and repositioned and has benches, a statue of the Virgin Mary and a cross.

Landscape gardener Joe Vale, an ex-pupil from Aldridge, was responsible for the design.

Pupils brought along posies to place in front of the statue of Our Lady before taking part in songs and prayers during its opening celebrations.

Father Michael Leadbetter, parish priest of St Mary's the Angels, led the service at the Whetstone Lane school.

Headteacher Claire O'Hara said: "We hope to be able to use the prayer garden for many years to come and thank Joe for his hard work.

Landscaped

"I arrived at the school in September and there was already a peace garden but it was sited amongst the adventure playground but it was not quite working out there. So by mutual agreement, we decided to reposition it. Joe Vale has already landscaped our pond so we asked if he would like to help us."

She added: "There are benches there now so classes can go out there and say prayers or during dinner times and play times, they can sit there quietly to reflect."

"The children have really been able to see this developing over time and they really like it."

Plan to revamp Bloxwich pub site

A PUB, shop and housing complex, which will create up to 10 new jobs in Bloxwich, has been given the green light by planning chiefs.

The trouble-hit former Leathern Bottle pub, where there had been police raids, will be pulled down to make way for a new three-storey L-shaped building in Cresswell Crescent.

Walsall Council's planning committee approved the scheme last week for a new build pub, retail space and nine flats.

Speaking in favour of the plans, Bloxwich Councillor Fred Westley said: "There are a number of derelict properties in all our areas. Almost anything which improves the area, I would be in favour of."

He said the pub had been hit by anti-social behaviour and residents had campaigned to get it demolished.

Planners also gave the go-ahead for a temporary work compound during the £3 million revamp of Walsall tower block Austin House. A patch of land in Teddesley Street can be used for storage, cabins and parking until December 31.

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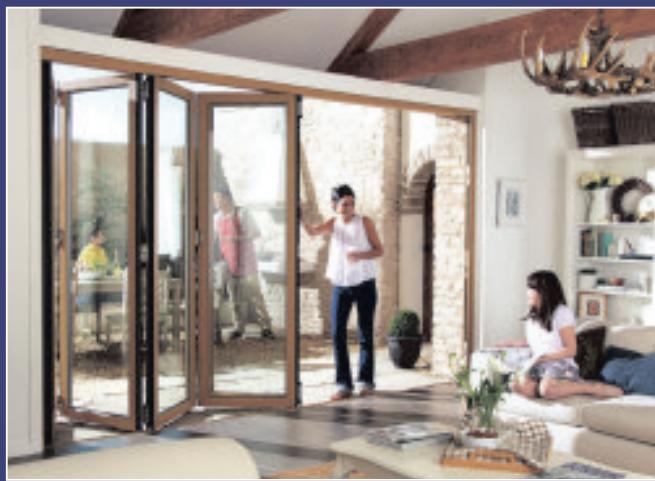
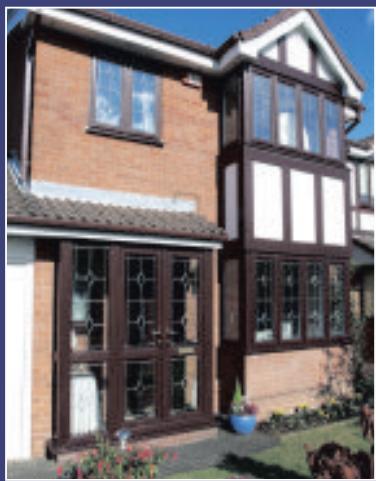
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thechronicle

Talks over a hotel for patients

TALKS have been held with a number of parties who have shown interest in running a proposed hotel for patients and relatives who need to be near to Walsall Manor Hospital.

The proposed 60-bedroom patient hotel is expected to create up to 30 jobs. Development firm Gora Developments has announced the scheme will cost around £4 million.

The project, which has planning permission, involves building a six-storey hotel on the site of the demolished Forge Hammer pub in Rollingmill Street, just a short distance from the hospital. The plan is for the hotel to provide additional accommodation for people who do not need to be on hospital wards but need to be close to medical facilities.

Students and their teachers were taking part in special activities at Oxford's Botanic Garden on Friday. While youngsters spent the day learning about Oxford from undergraduates at Oriel and St Hilda's Colleges, teachers had access to admissions tutors to get advice about preparing their pupils for the Oxford application process.

The Exploring Oxford day was one of a series of ten events in which nearly 300 students from 30 state schools attended events with undergraduates.

Raj Kumar, development manager for Gora Developments, said: "We've been speaking to a number of providers who operate patient hotels that are UK based and a couple of European companies. "We've had a fair amount of interest and are going through negotiations about how they will operate it. Running a patient hotel is an unusual type of operation. It's an area which is expanding rapidly."

High hopes for heroes



Tracy Higgins is skydiving in aid of a military charity

AN ADVENTUROUS Walsall fundraiser is preparing to leap more than 13,000ft to help raise money for charity.

Tracy Higgins, from Harden, in Walsall, will be braving her second skydive in aid of Help for Heroes on July 5.

The 38-year-old community staff nurse has family members who have served in the armed forces and regularly sends parcels to troops.

Plunge

The fundraiser will be among a group of 10 who will take the plunge in the Nottingham area this summer. She said: "I am looking to raise as much money as I can as every penny counts."

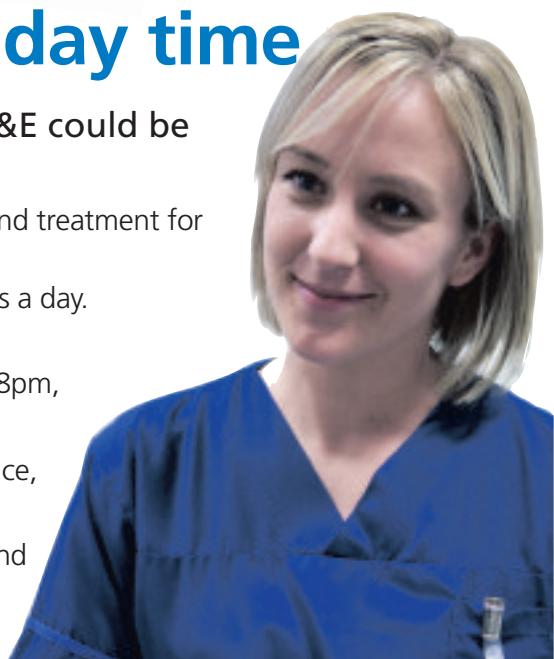
People can also sponsor her charity efforts by visiting www.bemycharity.co.uk/tracyhiggins2

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Walsall

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- Contact your GP for medical problems, or, for GP out of hours service, telephone your GP and follow the recorded advice
- The Emergency and Urgent Care Centre (24/7) is for the advice and treatment of patients who arrive at the Manor Hospital A&E with conditions suitable to be seen by a GP or nurse



thechronicle

Somme visits unearth history

WHEN Tony Kirk found a cut-throat razor on a French battlefield he spotted that it stood out from the rest as the owner had carved his name into it.

The razor may have been almost 100 years old, but back at his Wolverhampton home Tony started doing some research on the name 'Cowell' that was scratched into the razor. He not only found out the full name of the soldier – John William Cowell, but also which regiment he was with, how he died and also found a photo of the young man who was killed in the attack on Serre on July 1, 1916.

For the last 16 years Tony has regularly gone out to the Somme with friends and family, and usually brings back an item which he can research.

"I had an interest in military items and 16 years ago a friend said he was going to visit the Somme so I decided to go with him," says Tony, who has one son Dan, 21.

"As well as hundreds of graveyards there are ploughed fields that you can walk across and pick up items, which have been there for decades. It amazed me how peaceful it was but within minutes I had found a fuse head from a shell, caked in mud. You can't imagine those quiet fields were once the site of a battle where hundreds of people died."

Grenades

Tony goes out to the Somme for a week around three times a year and says among the easiest items to find are grenades.

"In a week it is easy to find around 30 grenades, but you have to be very careful as some of them may not have gone off," he says. "If they haven't gone off I leave them as it means there is something wrong with them – but I've seen other collectors hitting them with a hammer."

Tony, 57, says: "When I found the cut-throat razor with the name Cowell carved into it at Serre I knew it would lead to more information. I discovered that John William Cowell had been a member of the Accrington Pals battalion and he had died on the field where I found his razor."

The Accrington Pals was created in the early months of the First World War in response to Kitchener's call for a volunteer army. Groups of friends from all walks of life in the Lancashire town enlisted together to form a battalion. In its first major action, the battalion suffered devastating losses in the attack on Serre on July 1, 1916 - the opening day of the Battle of the Somme.

"John's body was never found but I discovered a picture of him and that he used to regularly write postcards to his wife Polly," added Tony.



Tony and Angela Kirk with some of the items discovered at the Somme

Groups of friends from all walks of life in the Lancashire town enlisted together to form a battalion. In its first major action, the battalion suffered devastating losses in the attack on Serre on July 1, 1916 - the opening day of the Battle of the Somme.

"John's body was never found but I discovered a picture of him and that he used to regularly write postcards to his wife Polly," added Tony.



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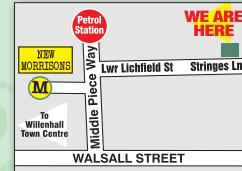


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thechronicle

Beechdale drug raid

A MAN has been charged with production of cannabis after more than 20 plants were seized in Walsall.

The police executed a search warrant at premises in Faraday Road, Beechdale, at around 11am on Tuesday, May 29, where they found 22 cannabis plants.

A 60-year-old man was arrested. He will appear at Walsall Magistrates Court on June 19.

Sergeant Chris Jones, from the Beechdale neighbourhood policing team, said: "We executed the warrant after receiving intelligence around drug activity at the address."

Determined

"We are determined to stamp out drug crime on the estate and take any information received seriously."

"We are urging the community to contact us if they have any concerns or any information."

Those with information can call Sgt Jones or one of his team by calling Bloxwich police station on 101.

The public can also leave information anonymously by calling Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

Creative children



Sarah Gwilt shows off her mask at Elmwood School CHILDREN at a Walsall special school have been showing their creative skills by producing culture masks.

Pupils at Elmwood School, in Rushall, spent several weeks designing and making the impressive masks using plaster and paint.

It involved Year 7 and Year 9 pupils at the school, which is in King George Crescent.

After the completion of the project the masks have been put on display for people to see at the school.

Success

The project has hailed as a success by art teacher Brian Collins. He said: "It was very good and the kids have been engaged in it and really enjoyed it."

"The main thought was to develop the conceptual ideas around culture and to develop skills."

Pupils will soon be working on their next project, which will be cartoon-based.

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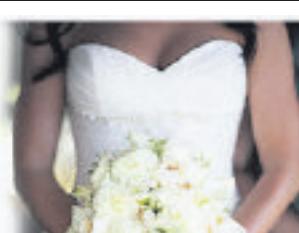
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"If you are considering a Care Home place for yourself or a relative, please feel free to pop and visit Pelsall Hall and see what we have to offer. **No appointment is necessary.** We look forward to meeting you."

Steve Brookes, Manager.

Pelsall Hall has benefitted from a £3million refurbishment and redevelopment which provides superior accommodation in a light and airy environment. All bedrooms are en suite and have a TV and telephone point and are equipped with a state of the art nurse call system. All residents can personalise their rooms with their favourite pictures and personal effects. There are several communal areas and seating areas including a Bistro and a Family room with PC and internet access. The Chefs and their teams always offer a wide choice of dishes. We also cater for individual, personal favourites and special or medical diets.

Each resident is encouraged and helped to lead his or her own life as independently as possible and individual cultural and religious needs are respected. There is a full programme of entertainment delivered by our activities staff with music, social activities and outings in our own minibus for those who wish to take part. There will be an allotment for residents use in Summer 2012.

In addition to our main residential home we also have "Eden Rise" which provides accommodation for people with advanced dementia needs.

New for 2012, is a wheelchair friendly walkway which is being built through our wooded area in our large secure gardens.

If you have not visited the hall before, we think you will be impressed with how lovely it is. Please do come and have a look around, and ask the questions you need to ask, any time. **No appointment necessary.** We look forward to meeting you.

Pelsall Hall is managed by Greensleaves Homes Trust, a charity managing Care Homes for Older People.

"We chose Pelsall Hall for mom because it was so light and airy. The staff are very kind and I liked the autonomy it provides". Relative

"I'm very happy here, the staff are lovely and the food is wonderful. When I came for respite I made friends and decided I wanted to stay"
Resident



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Tel: 01922 693399 Email: steve.brookes@greensleaves.org.uk

LETTERS

thechronicle

Anti-smoking 'terror tactics'

HOW little Alan Pearce (Cancer Research UK Campaign Ambassador) knows about youngsters acquiring the desire to enjoy smoking tobacco.

It is not the sight of a "glitzy packet", graphically embellished with smouldering lungs, decaying teeth, hypodermic syringe, or a corpse, that captures their interest, or even the attractive slogan "smoking kills".

Their introduction to smoking is usually via single cigarette, passed from hand to hand among a bunch of chums, when nobody knows, or even

Labour blather of Balls and co

I READ and listen with interest all the comments made by Ed Balls, Yvette Cooper and other purported economists within the Labour Party. They continue blather on about the lack of a plan B, that the Government should do this, and the other to get things moving.

If they have so many brilliant ideas to get the country out of the mess we are in - created by them anyway, I hasten to add - why didn't they apply their ideas when in Government.

Oh I forgot, sorry, they did. That is why we are now struggling to get out of this horrendous predicament.

B CARROLL
Walsall

Eurovision rubbish

I CAME home after performing in a jubilee concert (Willenhall Musical Society) only to see the Eurovision rubbish concert. What a waste of TV year after year. Why don't we leave it alone next year, no one will miss it.

DENNIS EMMS
Harlech Road
Willenhall

cares, what brand appears upon it.

The lame brains, who pontificate about attractive packaging entrapping the young and impressionable, have tried using terror tactics, and failed.

They have been responsible for screening tobacco products from view, and now think that plain packaging will achieve their objective. It won't!

Dictatorship

When smoking was at its zenith, cigarettes were commonly transferred from their packaging into plain cigarette cases, from which they were dispensed among their friends. It provided no disincentive whatsoever.

As a child the Second World War I

was raised to detest dictatorship in all its forms and I oppose attempts by "little Hitlers" to impose their doctrine upon us all.

The vindictive anti-smoking brigade have already brought about the virtual demise of the traditional British pub with their smoking ban in public places. Their eyes are now fixed on the extinction of tobacconists.

Enough is enough. It is time for all freedom loving citizens to fight back.

ALAN V HARRISON
Julian Close
Great Wyrley
Walsall

LETTERS

to the Editor

POST

Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle
Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

walsall.chronicle@
expressandstar.co.uk

Praise for cancer care medical team

AFTER surviving Hodkin's Lymphoma cancer for more than 10 years I must praise all of the dedicated professional staff at the Deanesly Centre, New Cross Hospital.

From the time you check in reception, having blood samples taken, to seeing the doctor, all staff are sympathetic to your condition.

May I also thank Dr C Brammer and her staff for all the work they have done for me and others over the years, and the years to come I hope.

But I am not alone, this department deals with many cancer cases, treats young and old with the same care and attention.

Also may I add my thanks to all the Lymphedema nurses at the new Palliative Care Centre at Goscote Hospital, they too are the most caring people always helpful and with a smile to cheer you up when things look down.

So I say to anyone going into these hospitals, chin up because you won't get any better treatment anywhere.

MR J WHEELER
Hall Street East
Darlaston

Disgusted by rent rise of £8 a week

I WAS disgusted to read that WHG Housing are to raise rents by £8 per week.

This is to help pay for the state-of-the-art offices which they have moved to. I have visited these offices and it is a complete waste of space and public money.

As for them saying the money gained by these rent rises pays for repairs etc, I have recently had central heating renewed and two of the radiators are not working properly. Despite of me phoning and personal visits no-one has been.

Chimney

The chimney pot is in danger of falling down and the whole of the property needs re-pointing.

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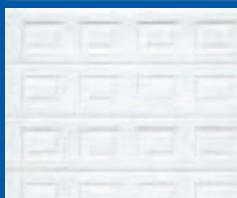


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SATURDAY'S TV 9.06.12

CHOICE



Lee McKenzie

Formula 1: The Canadian Grand Prix – Qualifying Highlights**BBC1, 10.30pm**

Lee McKenzie presents the best of the action, as what has been a thrilling season so far continues with the battle for pole ahead of the seventh round in Montreal. Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel finished ahead of the field to claim his sixth pole position in seven races during the 2011 campaign. Six different drivers have taken the honours in as many Grands Prix at the start of the campaign for the first time in Formula 1 history, and with the likes of Hamilton yet to taste victory, a seventh different winner cannot be ruled out.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Raymond Blanc's Kitchen Secrets. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **12.15** British Olympic Dreams. The progress of global athletes preparing for London 2012. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Castle of the Atom. (R) **2.30** Games Under the Hammer. (R) **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** Match of the Day Live: Euro 2012. Netherlands v Denmark (Kick-off 5.00pm).

7.10 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.30 Match of the Day Live: Euro 2012. Romania v Portugal (Kick-off 7.45pm). Garry Lineker presents coverage of the Group B clash at the Arena Lviv in Ukraine, where the sides begin their quest for glory.

10.00 BBC News: Weather.

10.20 The National Lottery. Saturday Night Draws. OJ O'Brien reveals the latest in tonight's winning numbers, including the results of the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

10.30 Formula 1: The Canadian Grand Prix – Qualifying Highlights. The Canadian Grand Prix qualifying session. Action from the battle for pole position in the seventh round of the season at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal.

11.45 Film: *Ransom*. (1996) An airline tycoon turns the tables on the criminals who have kidnapped his son by placing a bounty on their heads. Thriller remake, with Mel Gibson, René Russo and Gary Sinise.

1.40 Weatherview. **1.45** BBC News.**BBC2**

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.15** The Sky at Night. (R) **12.35** Film: *Krakatoa, East of Java*. (1968) **2.45** Film: *Goal!* (2005) **4.35** Coast. (R) **5.35** Flap It! (R)

6.35 More Dawn French's Girls Who Do Comedy. The comedienne talks to Victoria Wood, who reveals her childhood secret of seeing Joyce Grenfell's performances and admits that for a long time she could not relax during stand-up. (R)

7.05 Victoria Wood's Short Term Memories. Skits, songs and sketches with the comedienne and friends, including long-time collaborator Julie Walters, plus Delia Smith, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean. (R)

7.55 Victoria Wood: A Bafta Tribute. Julie Walters, Lenny Henry, Richard E Grant and Jim Broadbent gather for a special evening of the much-loved entertainer, offering an opportunity to look back over her career. (R)

9.00 Jools Holland: London Calling. The performer embarks on a journey through the streets, landmarks, pubs, music halls and rock 'n' roll venues of London to uncover the history of the city through its songs.

10.15 London Songs at the BBC. A collection of performances from the BBC archives.

11.15 Film: *Telstar: The Joe Meek Story*. (2009) Premiere. Biopic of the 1960s record producer, starring Con O'Neill.

1.15 Film: *Sugarhouse*. (2007) Crime thriller, with Steven Mackintosh. **2.40** Close.
ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** Saturday Cookbook. **9.25** iTV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The Real Housewives of New York City. **12.20** You've Been Framed! (R) **12.50** iTV News; Weather. **1.00** Live French Open Tennis. **4.45** A Star Family Fortunes. (R) **5.30** Regional Programming: Weather. **5.45** iTV News; Weather.

6.00 The Greatest Footie Ads Ever. (R)

7.00 You Cannot Be Serious! Alistair McGowan presents a topical entertainment show mixing clips, sketches and impressions based on the week's biggest and most talked-about sporting events.

7.30 All New You've Been. (R) Comedian Harry Hill narrates a series of camcorder calamities and viewers' mobile phone footage.

8.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot. A cleaner is found dead in her home and suspicion immediately falls upon her lodger but Superintendent Spence begins to question that man's guilt. (R)

10.00 ITV News: Weather.
10.15 Euro 2012 Highlights.

Netherlands v Denmark and Germany v Portugal. Action from the opening matches in Group B in Ukraine, staged at the Metalist Stadium in Kharkiv and the Arena Lviv respectively.

11.15 William at 30. Prince William's life in the public eye. (R)
12.15 Film: *ITV News Headlines*. **2.15** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** iTV Morning News.
CHANNEL 4

6.05 Salt Mail. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Nicki Minaj: Day in the Life. **9.25** T4: Made in Chelsea. **10.35** T4: Love Shaft. **11.10** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.45** T4: Revenge. **12.50** iTV News; The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** Road to London 2012: That Olympic Show. **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **4.15** Channel 4 Presents – Nathan Stephens "Warrior". (R) **4.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me. Alicia Coppola hosts the penultimate dinner party in Manchester. (R)

6.30 Come Dine with Me. Film Student Dennis Kilgallon-Foster hosts the final dinner party in Manchester. (R)

6.55 Channel 4 News.
7.25 4Thought. tv.
7.30 Film: *Definitely, Maybe*.

(2008) A father on the eve of his divorce tells his daughter about his life before he was married, including how he met her mother. Romantic comedy, with Ryan Reynolds and Abigail Breslin.

9.40 8 Out of 10 Cats Jubilee.

An edition focusing on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

10.25 Alan Carr's Summertime Spectacular. With David Walliams, Justin Bieber, the Saturdays, Rizzle Kicks and the cast of Made in Chelsea. (R)
12.35 Stand Up for the Week. (R)
1.20 Film: *Bombon el Perro*. (2004) **1.55** Son of a... **3.35** St Elsewhere. (R) **4.25** Smallville. (R) **5.05** Countdown. (R) **5.50** Glamour Puds. (R)
CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Inside Hollywood. **10.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.10** Big Brother: Eviction. (R) **12.10** Film: The Secret Garden. (1993) **2.10** Film: Random Hearts. (1999) Romantic drama, with Harrison Ford and Kristin Scott Thomas. **4.40** Film: Steel Magnolias. (1989) Drama, with Sally Field and Julia Roberts.

6.55 5 News Weather.

7.00 Crisis on 5. England v West Indies. Highlights of day three of the Third Test at Edgbaston in Birmingham.

8.00 NCIS. The agents learn one of their former investigative assistants has been murdered, and had been selling information about how to rob a warehouse. Crime drama, starring Mark Harmon. (R)

9.00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A teenage girl is hurt in a fall, but doctors discover she is also suffering from injuries sustained in an attack, setting Benson and Stabler off on a search for her assailant.

10.00 Big Brother. Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the first eviction as seen from the point of view of the contestants.

11.00 10 Things I Hate About.

1995. Robert Webb narrates an unlikely trip down memory lane, beginning by recalling the worst music, TV shows, toys, news stories and celebrity moments of 1995. (R)

12.00 Big Casino. **3.55** Nick's Quest. (R) **4.50** Guide to Short Breaks. (R) **5.00** Hand's a Good Thing. (R) **6.15** The Breakup. (R) **7.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **8.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)
DIGITAL**BBC Three**

7.00 Doctor Who. **7.50** Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End. (2007) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Johnny Depp. **10.25** Russell Howard's Good News. **11.00** Family Guy. **11.45** American Dad!

BBC Four

7.00 Talk at the BBC. **8.00** Elegance and Decadence: The Age of the Regency. **9.00** Spiral 2: Gangs of Paris. **10.45** Timeshift: The Golden Age of Trams – A Streetcar Named Desire. **11.45** Wonders of the Solar System.

ITV2

7.15 Film: *Riche Rich*. (1994) **7.15** Film: *Mr Bean's Holiday*. (2007) **9.00** Film: *The Holiday*. (2006) Romantic comedy, starring Cameron Diaz and Kate Winslet. **11.45** Britain's Got More Talent: Kids and Pets Unleashed.

ITV3

3.55 Murder. She Wrote. **5.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot. **7.05** Film: *The Likely Lads*. (1976) **9.00** Susan Boyle: An Unlikely Superstar. **10.00** Lewis.

ITV4

12.30 Live French Open Tennis. **7.00** The Motorbike Show. **9.00** An Audience with Billy Connolly. **10.10** Film: *The Krays*. (1990)

Film4

3.40 Charlie's Angels. **4.35** Revenge. **5.35** How I Met Your Mother. **6.35** The Big Bang Theory. **8.35** Rules of Engagement. **9.10** How I Met Your Mother. **9.40** Film: *Chain Reaction*. (1996) Action thriller, starring Keanu Reeves and Rachel Weisz.

11.50 The Big Bang Theory. **Film5**

3.20 Aliens in the Attic. (2009) **5.00** The Simpsons Movie. (2007) **6.45** The First Wives Club. (1996) **9.00** Star Trek. (2009) **11.25** The Hills. **Hills** Has Eyes 2 (2007)

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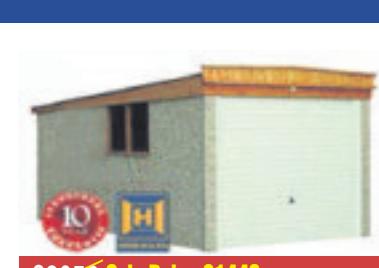
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SUNDAY'S TV 10.06.12

CHOICE



Sheila Ferguson

The Royal History of Pop
Channel 4, 10pm

The recent Diamond Jubilee concert, which saw current chart stars like Jessie J, Ed Sheeran and JLS joining knights of the realm Paul McCartney and Cliff Richard to pay tribute to the Queen, may have left some old punks nostalgic for 1977, when the Sex Pistols were advocating Anarchy in the UK and it wasn't cool to cosy up to the establishment. But as this documentary points out, the link between pop and the monarchy dates back long before Gary Barlow was composing songs for Elizabeth II – in fact, the love-hate relationship has existed since the birth of rock'n'roll.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Country Tracks; (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** Country Hunt. (R) **1.45** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Penguin Island. (R) **4.15** Britain's Lost Routes with Griff Rhys Jones. (R) **5.15** Points of View. **5.30** Songs of Praise.

6.05 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.30 **Countryfile**. The team visits the Peak District with Country Baker bushes to his tractor skills with Shipton-on-Stour Young Farmers, and Ellie Harrison learns the art of side-saddle riding.

7.30 **Antiques Roadshow**. Fiona Bruce and the team head to Kensington Palace and central London, with a bumper of the public share stories of encounters with the Queen from over the past 60 years.

8.30 **The Inspector Lynley Mysteries**. The body of Lynley's missing godson is discovered 12 years after he disappeared, and the detective's son becomes a suspect when the boy's sister is found dead. (R)

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.30 **Formula 1: The Canadian Grand Prix - Highlights**. The Canadian Grand Prix. Lee McKenzie presents extended highlights of the seventh round of the season at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal.

12.30 **Film**: Somers Town. (2008) Comedy, with Thomas Turgoose.

1.35 Weatherview. **1.40** Sign Zone: Two Greedy Italians: Still Hungry. (R) **2.40** Holby City. (R) **3.40** Question Time. (R) **4.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 **Cbeebies**. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** **Film**: When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth. (1990) **2.30** The Great Cuckoo. (1959) Military adventure, starring Gary Cooper. **4.05** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **4.35** Fog It! (R) **5.35** **Film**: Serendipity. (2001) Romantic drama, starring Kate Beckinsale and John Cusack.

7.00 **Oceans**. Exploring the world's seas, beginning with the Seal of Cortez at the west end of Mexico. (R)

8.00 **Timewatch - Queen Elizabeth's Lost Guns**.

Documentary about efforts to retrieve 400-year-old cannons from the seabed off Alderney, and analyse the sunken ship on which they were found, which could be naval history. (R)

9.00 **Coast**. Exploring the tidal ebb and flow of the seas surrounding Britain, including the rapids off the coast of Anglesey and the marine wildlife visible from Jersey's Seymour Tower.

10.00 Louis Theroux: **Twilight of the Plain Stars**. This revisits the plain stars he met in LA 15 years ago, finding out where they are now and how the business has been affected by the deluge of free material on the internet.

11.00 **Match of the Day**; **UEFA Euro 2012 Highlights**. Of Ireland v Croatia and Spain v Italy. (R) **12.00** **ITV News**. A report on the latest political action from the respective Group C matches at the Municipal Stadium Poznan and the Arena Gdańsk in Poland.

12.30 **Film**: Somers Town. (2008) Comedy, with Thomas Turgoose.

1.35 Weatherview. **1.40** Sign Zone: Two Greedy Italians: Still Hungry. (R) **2.40** Holby City. (R) **3.40** Question Time. (R) **4.40** BBC News.

4.50 Close.

ITV1

6.00 **CITV**: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** Dinner Date. **9.25** Ade in Britain. (R) **10.20** May the Best House Win. (R) **11.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.30** The Weather. (R) **2.30** You've Been Framed! (R) **1.00** Live French Open Tennis. The men's singles final. John Inverdale presents coverage of the conclusion of the second Grand Slam tournament of the season, staged at Roland Garros in Paris. Coverage continues on ITV4. **4.15** Euro 2012. Spain v Italy (Kick-off 5.00pm). Adrian Chiles presents coverage of the Group C clash at the Arena Gdańsk in Poland, where reigning champions Spain get their campaign under way.

7.00 **Regional Programme**; Weather.

7.05 **ITV News**; Weather.

7.15 **Europe 2012**. Coverage of Poland v Croatia kick-off 7.45pm). Adrian Chiles presents coverage from the Municipal Stadium Poznan in Poland, where the Group C teams play their opening match.

10.00 **ITV News** at Ten; Weather.

10.15 **Film**: **The Incredible Hulk**. (2008) A scientist who turns into a giant green monster angry is hunted by a general who wants to use him as a weapon. Comic-book adventure, starring Edward Norton and Tim Roth.

12.25 **The Store**; **ITV News Headlines**. **2.30** **River Monsters**. A search for the bull shark in South Africa. (R) **3.00** **Formula 1**; **2.30** **Motorsport UK**. Porsche Carrera Cup and Renault Clio Cup highlights from Donington Park. With commentary by Richard John Neil and Simon Hill. **4.10** **ITV Nightscreen**. **5.30** **ITV Morning News**.

4.50 Close.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 **The Hoobs**; (R) **6.40** Beach Volleyball. **7.25** **Freeposters** on 4. **8.05** **Everybody Loves Raymond**. (R) **8.30** **Everybody Loves Raymond**. (R) **8.55** **Frank**; (R) **9.30** **Prasies**. (R) **10.00** **Sunday Brunch**. **12.30** **The Big Bang Theory**. (R) **1.00** **The Big Bang Theory**. **1.35** **The Simpsons**. (R) **2.05** **The Simpsons**. (R) **2.35** **Film**: Black Knight. (2001) **4.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** **Deal or No Deal**.

6.20 **Channel 4 News**.

6.50 **4Thought.tv**. A woman who has been diagnosed with cancer discusses how her diagnosis prompted her to re-evaluate her life and put her own needs first.

6.55 **The Political Slot**. Shadow Welsh Secretary Owen Smith MP discusses the effects of government cuts in his Pontypridd constituency.

7.00 **Born Every Minute**. A fashion designer who has not had a single maternal class has a water birth, while another woman hopes her second experience of labour is easier than the first. (R)

8.00 **Film**: **Dear John**. (2010) Premiere. A soldier falls in love with a student, but their relationship is threatened when he has to return to duty. Romantic drama, with Channing Tatum.

10.00 **The Royal History of Pop**. The links between the royal family and pop music.

11.05 **Film**: **Aliens**. (1986) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Sigourney Weaver.

1.55 **Camelot**; (R) **2.45** **Channel 4 Presents** – Liz Johnson "Night Swimmer". (R) **2.50** **Hollyoaks**. (R) **5.05** **Deal or No Deal**. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!**; Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** **Fifi and the Flowertots**; (R) **6.25** **City of Friends**. (R) **6.35** Harry and His Friends. (R) **6.45** **Postman Pat**; (R) **6.50** **Castle Farm**. (R) **6.55** **Abby's Flying Fairy School**. (R) **7.05** **Roobarb and Custard Too**; (R) **7.10** **Bananas in Pyjamas**. (R) **7.25** **Family!** (R) **7.35** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.45** **Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures**. (R) **7.50** **Roary and the Flowertots**; (R) **8.10** **Little Princess**; (R) **8.20** **Adventures of Bobo Bill and His Best Friend Corky**. (R) **8.30** **Angelina Ballerina**. (R) **8.45** **Rupert Bear**. (R) **8.55** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom**. (R) **9.10** **The Mr Men Show**; (R) **9.20** **Roary the Racing Car**; (R) **9.35** **The Big Bang Theory**. (R) **10.00** **Zoo Days**. (R) **10.15** **The Amy Macdonald Story**. (R) **10.45** **Grey's Anatomy**. (R) **11.45** **Big Brother**. (R) **12.45** **Film**: Jackie Chan's First Strike. (1996) **2.25** **Film**: **The Golden Voyage of Sinbad**. (1974) **4.30** **Film**: **Hitch**. (2005)

6.55 **5 News Weekend**.

7.00 **Cricket** on 5. England v West Indies. **8.00** **Cricket** on 5. England v West Indies. **8.00** **5 News Weekend**.

8.00 **Once Upon a Time**.

9.00 **Big Brother**.

10.00 **Film**: **The Pursuit of Happiness**. (2006) Fact-based drama, starring Will Smith.

12.20 **Extraordinary People**: Seven New Faces in Seven Days. (R) **1.20** **SuperCasino**. (R) **4.00** **The FBI Files**.

(R) **4.50** **Round Guide to Journeys**.

(R) **5.00** **Hana's Helpline**. (R) **5.10** **The Milkshake!** Show. (R) **5.35** **Thomas & Friends**. (R) **5.45** **Roary the Racing Car**. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Wallace & Gromit's Cracking Contraptions 7. **10** Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers. **7.40** **Film**: Madagascar (2005) **9.00** Live at the Apollo 9. **10** Family Guy 10. **15** American Dad! **11.30** Russell Howard's Good News

BBC Four

7.00 Behind the Scenes at the Museum **8.00** Timeshift: All the Fun of the Fair 9. **00** Nina Conti – A Ventriloquist's Story: Her Master's Voice **10.00** The Secret Life of Bob Monkhouse **11.30** Frank Skinner on George Formby

ITV2

2.45 **Film**: A Little Princess (1995) **4.45** **Film**: Nanny McPhee (2005) **6.45** **Film**: E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) **9.00** Benidorm 10. **10** **Mark Wright's Hollywood Nights** **11.00** **The Exclusives**

ITV3

3.00 **Murder, She Wrote** 4.00 **Rosemary & Thyme** 6.00 **Lewis** 8.00 **Midmister Murders** 10.05 **Wycliffe** 11.15 **Cracker**

ITV4

11.30 **British Touring Car Championship** 4.00 **Live French Open Tennis** 8.00 **British Touring Car Championship** 10.00 **Europe** 11.00 **Crash** **12.00** **Film**: Scarface (1983) **E4** **3.10** **Glee** 4.25 **90210** 10.20 **The Big Bang Theory** 8.45 **Reverie** 7.15 **Film**: Honey, I Blew Up the Kid (1992) Comedy, with Rick Moranis. **9.00** **Desperate Housewives** 11.00 **2 Broke Girls** 11.30 **Don't Trust the B---- in Apartment 23**

Film4

3.15 **Inspector Gadget** (1999) **4.50** **Ladyhawke** (1985) **7.20** **Hot Shots!** Part Deux (1993) **9.00** **Premonition** (2007) **10.50** **Under Siege** (1992)

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Entertainment Cannock Chase

For tickets please call
tel: 01543 578762



Roll Out The Barrel

Wednesday 13th June 2.30 pm
Tickets £12.50, Concessions £11



Thursday 14th June 7.30 pm
Tickets £19



Saturday 16th June 7.30 pm
Tickets £16.50

Herman's Hermits

Friday 15th June 7.30 pm

Tickets £17, Concessions £16

Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock Tel:01543 578762

www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/princeofwales

A NEW, FAST AND EXCITING WAY TO LOSE WEIGHT

Gymophobics in Walsall is offering a new figure improvement programme that is currently sweeping the nation.

Resisted Tension is a 30 minutes workout designed to turn the body into a fat burning machine by "switching on" dormant muscle fibres.

After just a few sessions of Resisted Tension, a beginner sees her body taking shape as muscles become toned and start to burn off unwanted fat. Most ladies lose a dress size in the first few weeks.

Resisted Tension is designed to squeeze muscles isometrically whilst exercising on "air" machines which takes the work out of the workout!

A 30 minutes session leaves you feeling invigorated rather than exhausted.

RESULTS GUARANTEE

Achieve results that show in just ten weeks or Gymophobics will refund every penny. Call **01922 638038** for more information or visit www.gymophobics.co.uk

9 Digbeth, Walsall WS1 1QZ
(Down Hill from Asda)

LADIES ONLY

* Terms & Conditions apply. Results vary and are dependent on attendance and physiological make-up, weight loss is achieved in conjunction with a calorie controlled diet.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Unlike conventional gyms, Gymophobics in Digbeth is a one stop shop. It combines all the benefits of a gym with those offered by a slimming club.

For those who want to slim down, their weight is monitored every week and specially trained staff work with them to come to terms with their diet and to speed up their metabolism.

It is no wonder some Gymophobics members achieve results that far exceed those gained in a conventional gym environment.

Resisted Tension targets those areas of the body that need attention.

Inch loss is quickly achieved as muscles are strengthened, the tummy is flattened, Bingo wings at the back of the arms, flabby thighs, hips and buttocks are toned and tightened. The bust is lifted, the waistline contracted and the figure is swiftly restored to ideal proportions.

Try Resisted Tension for yourself – It won't let you down.

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Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Crimewatch Roadshow. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. 11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 2.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.00 CBBC News; Weather. Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 3.15 Pointless. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 Match of the Day Live: Euro 2012, Ukraine v Sweden (Kick-off: 7.45pm). 8.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. 11.20 The Graham Norton Show. (R) 2.00 The Spy Who Came in from the Spy ad. (R) 3.00 Celeste. Natasja (1997) Weatherview. 1.25 Sign Zone: Divine Women. (R) 2.25 The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) 2.55 Chaplains: Angels of Mersey. (R) 3.25 Great British Menu. (R) 3.30 The Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 4.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News. 12.00 Daily Politics. 1.00 Tennis from Queen's. The AEGON Championships. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. (R) 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 7.00 Antiques Road Trip. 8.00 Springwatch 2012. 9.00 Great Ormond Street. 10.00 QI. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 The Secret History of Our Streets. (R) 12.20 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional Weather. 2.10 Match of the Best. (R) 3.00 4.00 Dickins' Real Deal. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Euro 2012 Live. France v England (Kick-off: 5.00pm). Adrian Chiles presents coverage of the opening clash in Group D from the Donbass Arena in Donetsk, Ukraine. 7.30 Regional News; Weather. 7.45 ITV News; Weather. 8.00 Coronation Street. 9.00 Bedmorn. (R) 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.35 Euro 2012 Highlights. 11.35 In Plain Sight. (R) 12.25 Jackpot247; ITV News Headlines. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.55 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.00 The Tread People. (R) 6.10 Sali Malli. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Fresh Squeezed. 7.35 According to Jim. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Undercover Boss. (R) 10.00 Location, Location, Location. (R) 11.00 Secret Removers. 12.00 Channel 4 News Midday Summary. 12.05 Three in a Bed. (R) 1.05 Channel 4 Presents – Lee Pearson "Lone Rider". (R) 1.10 Film: Shenandoah. (1965) American Civil War Western, starring James Arness. 3.45 Countess. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Embarrassing Bodies: Live from the Clinic. 9.00 Jimmy and the Giant Supermarket. 10.00 All in the Best Possible Taste with Grayson Perry. 11.05 Ria: Diary of a Teen Transsexual. 12.05 Random Acts. 12.10 Poker. 1.15 KOTV Boxing Weekly. 1.45 Sailing: America's Cup Uncovered. 2.10 Beach Volleyball. (R) 3.05 The Grid. (R) 3.30 Volkswagen Race Cup. 4.00 Film: Superbike World Championship 2012. 4.25 Freeposters on 4. (R) 4.55 Road to London 2012: That Paralympic Show. (R) 5.20 Deal or No Deal. (R) 5.30 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 The Hotel Inspector. (R) 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Big Brother. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Law & Order. (R) 3.05 Summer Solstice. 5.00 5 News at 5.30. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 6.30. 7.00 Cricket on 5; 5 News Update. 8.00 The Restaurant Inspector. Fernando Peiró advises a struggling French restaurant in East Sussex; 5 News at 9. 9.00 Big Brother. Highlights of the housemates' past 24 hours. 10.00 Walking the Dog. (R) 11.00 Big Brother. The housemates' debts only to be freed from his horse and injured, leaving him open to attack from walkers. Glenn discovers a horrible secret in the barn. 11.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Side. Emma Willis reports on developments in the house. 12.00 Sons of Anarchy. 1.00 SuperCasino. 3.55 House Doctor. (R)

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BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 BBC World News. 12.00 Daily Politics. 1.00 Tennis from Queen's. The AEGON Championships. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. (R) 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 7.00 Antiques Road Trip. 8.00 Springwatch 2012. 9.00 Great Ormond Street. 10.00 QI. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 The Secret History of Our Streets. (R) 12.20 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

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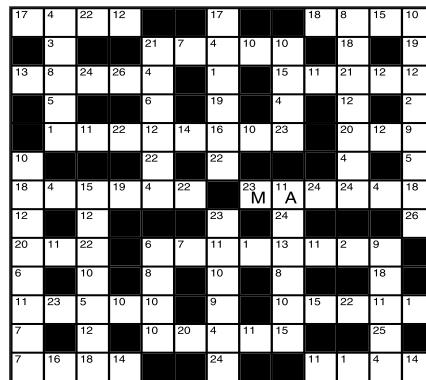
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Brain Gym

No.172

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
U	K	S	W	R	H	D	S	O	Z	J	B	Y	Q	E	X	I	G	V	F	L	A	C	P	T	M	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Q	E	X	I	G	V	F	L	A	C	P	T	M	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14



Lynda B.

Bellingham

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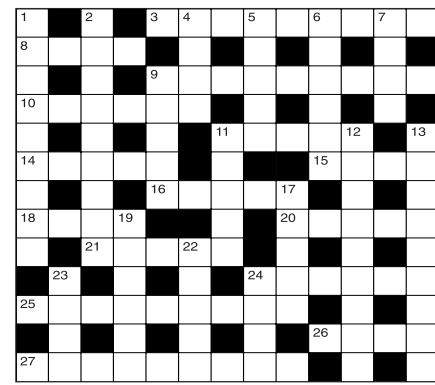
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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- With assurance, indeed (9)
- Well-produced paintings? (4)
- A reckoning that comes to nothing (5,4)
- Revolutionary type of public legislation (3,3)
- We hope the list includes her (5)
- To be so, use some shorter sentences (5)
- Sweet tryst? (4)
- It's the last in the home games (5)
- Satisfies a consuming passion (4)
- Strong drink? (5)
- Gets saner, perhaps (5)
- Scarcity of thread, possibly (6)
- Just the type to make a good look-out? (9)
- Peruvian began incautiously (4)
- They may be suspended from the works - on account of timekeeping? (9)

Down

- Did something and was sent to prison (9)
- Complicated tale a bore will add even more detail to (9)
- It was enough for our ancestors (4)
- May be held up or down (5)
- 3 Across in action (6)
- Type of linen one may walk on (4)
- Came to nothing artistically (5)
- Vessels were wrecked on the point (5)
- I rub along, somehow, working hard (9)
- Proceeded -- to take the lead? (4,5)
- A fool, and French, but worth having (5)
- Finally massacred something holy (6)
- Entertainment of a new kind? (5)
- A centre of revolution (4)
- This Major is an N.C.O. (4)

Quick Clues:

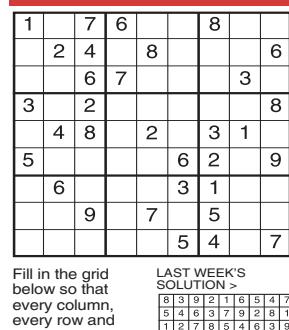
Across

- Try (9)
- Plunder (4)
- Rectory (9)
- Secret (6)
- Church council (5)
- Couch (5)
- Split (4)
- Flagrant (5)
- Rip (4)
- Commerce (5)
- Dog-lead (5)
- Apart from (6)
- Two-sided (9)
- Chief (4)
- Unfruitfulness (9)

Down

- Make clear (9)
- Jolly (9)
- Trim (4)
- Written composition (5)
- Seller (6)
- Impel (4)
- Tine (5)
- Laziness (5)
- Denial (9)
- Servant (9)
- Harden (5)
- Mend (6)
- Pilfer (5)
- Elevate (4)
- Allurement (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION >
8 1 3 9 2 1 1 6 5 4 1
5 4 6 3 7 9 2 8 1
1 2 7 8 5 4 6 3 9
2 1 8 4 1 6 2 3 7 8
7 3 5 9 8 1 2 4
9 5 4 1 6 2 3 7 8
3 9 5 7 4 1 8 6 2
6 7 2 9 8 5 4 1 3
4 1 6 2 3 7 9 5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC CLUES: 1. Dose; 2. Recorder; 3. Scheme; 4. Creche; 17. Putting it off; 20. Outdoors; 21. Asia; 22. Relived; 23. Isle; 24. Dressers; 2. Conceal; 4. Rebuff; 5. Model train; 6. Therm; 7. Rite; 10. Stay-at-home; 12. Selfsame; 15. Crosses; 16. Untrue; 18. Until; 19. Moor; 20. QUICK - Across; 1. Bide; 3. Prepared; 8. Dash; 9. Estrange; 11. Proclamation; 13. Sedate; 14. Tomato; 17. Telegraphist; 20. Crippled; 21. Rate; 22. Designer; 23. Less; 24. Budapest; 2. Discord; 4. Resume; 5. Paratroops; 6. Rondo; 7. Dies; 10. Clothes peg; 12. Fortress; 15. Agitate; 16. Grieve; 18. Edits; 19. Acid.

LAST WEEK'S CIRCLEGRAM SOLUTION:
The letter represented by the question mark is K.

Mazurka, Cakewalk, Kazachok, all dances.



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Top property guide for Walsall, Brownhills, Aldridge, Willenhall, Bloxwich and beyond

**Well-presented
home – £280,000**



The property for sale in Wood Lane Close, Willenhall



The neat rear garden includes an attractive patio

**A STUNNING three-bedroom
home on a private road in
Short Heath is on the market
priced at £280,000.**

The property – in Wood Lane Close, Willenhall – has been extensively refitted by the present owners and has a kitchen/family room, spacious lounge, three bedrooms, garage and driveway, with the agents saying that viewing is essential to appreciate the space and standard of finish.

The property is approached via a

block paved driveway, and on the ground floor is an entrance hall, downstairs shower room with shower cubicle, low-level WC and wash hand basin.

Conservatory

The lounge, 13ft 4in by 27ft 5in, has a gas fireplace with marble effect hearth while the kitchen/diner – 25ft by 11ft 3in – has a selection of wall mounted cupboards and base units with integrated wine rack, roll-edge work surfaces incorporating sink and drainer with mixer tap, built-in double

oven, gas hob and dishwasher and French doors to the conservatory measuring 21ft 1in by 13ft and with French doors to the rear garden.

There are three bedrooms and a bathroom with suite comprising panelled spa-style bath, low-level WC and wash basin set into vanity unit.

Outside is a detached garage, with the rear garden with block paving and laid to lawn.

Contact the Willenhall branch of estate agent Dixons on 01902 634 497 for more details or to view.

K. Stuart Swash PROPERTY AUCTION



103 MERRIDALE ROAD

2 Bed Mid Terrace, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, First Floor Bathroom
Side Pedestrian access and Garden at rear

*Guide: £63,000 / £68,000
VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8th & 9th JUNE @ 9.30 a.m.*



37 WOODHOUSE ROAD, TETTENHALL WOOD

Popular and established residential area
Large 3 Bed Semi, 2 Reception, Kitchen, Bathroom and additional w.c. Gas Heating
*Guide: £80,000 / £85,000
VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8th & 9th JUNE @ 10.15 a.m.*



302 HORDERN ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Well located Late Victorian Terraced
Two Reception, Kitchen, Two double Bedrooms, large Bathroom, Gas Heating
Yard, Store, deep Rear Garden

*Guide: £58,000 / £63,000
VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8th & 9th JUNE @ 11.00 a.m.*



21 MCLEAN ROAD, OXLEY

Pleasant cul-de-sac location, amenities at hand
3 Bed Semi, 2 Reception, Kitchen, Bathroom
Gas Central Heating, large attractive Garden

*Guide: £65,000 / £70,000
VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8th & 9th JUNE @ 11.45 a.m.*



28 MICKLEY AVENUE, FALLINGS PARK

At head of residential cul-de-sac
Modern Semi, spacious Lounge, Kitchen, Large Garden area
*Guide: £58,000 / £63,000
VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8th & 9th JUNE @ 12.30 p.m.*



41 MAXWELL ROAD, ALL SAINTS

Ripe for refurbishment
3 Bed Terraced and spacious Attic Room,
2 Reception, Ground Floor Bathroom and Kitchen facilities

*Guide: £33,000 / £38,000
VIEWING: FRIDAY 8th JUNE @ 1.00 p.m. & SATURDAY 9th JUNE @ 9.45 a.m.*



637 BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD, COSELEY

Freehold Shop Premises & Accommodation within a busy parade approached via a Service Road
Main Shop, Store, Kitchen area, Bathroom
Three First Floor Rooms
Vehicular access at rear offering potential for parking

*Guide: £78,000 / £83,000
VIEWING: FRIDAY 8th JUNE @ 1.45 p.m. & SATURDAY 9th JUNE @ 10.30 a.m.*



15 OLD END LANE, COSELEY
Well situated Semi-Detached on elevated plot, 2 Reception, Kitchen, Store, W.C. Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Ample Garage Space, direct approach, attractive front and rear Gardens
*Guide: £63,000 / £69,000
VIEWING: FRIDAY 8th JUNE @ 2.30 p.m. & SATURDAY 9th JUNE @ 11.15 a.m.*

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On TUESDAY 12th JUNE 2012 @ 6.30 pm
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VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK

PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.



Estate agent Webbs is offering this semi-detached in Chadsmoor



The kitchen is fitted with a range of matching wall and base units

Semi-detached on the market – priced £119,995

A DECEPTIVELY spacious two bedroom semi-detached house in Chadsmoor, Cannock, is on the market priced at £119,995.

In brief the accommodation at the property in Huntington Terrace Road comprises of porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, two bedrooms – the master with en suite shower – and family bathroom.

The house also benefits from gas central heating, uPVC double glazing, driveway providing of-road parking and rear garden.

On the ground floor the lounge has a feature Adam style fire surround with tiled hearth and space for free standing fire, while the dining room has double doors to the kitchen which is fitted with a range of

wall and base units with roll-edge work surfaces, built-in electric oven and gas hob with extractor hood over and plumbing and space for automatic washing machine.

On the first floor bedroom one has an en suite with shower and vanity unit with wash basin, and there is a second bedroom and bathroom with corner bath, pedestal wash basin and low-level WC.

Patio

Outside to the front is a driveway providing off-road parking and gates access to the rear where the garden is split level with a paved patio area and the remainder laid to lawn with shrub borders and with access to an outside WC with hand basin and toilet.

Call estate agent Webbs on 01543 468846 for more details.

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103 Lots to include properties on behalf of:



Lot 1	Former Children's Day Nursery, 33 New Spring Street Hockley, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 34	83 Marroway Street, Ladywood, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 68	152 Parkeston Crescent, Kingstanding, Birmingham	Residential Investment
Lot 2	Site of Winchester Grove, Off Wattville Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Land	Lot 35	1B Reservoir Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 69	6 Booths Lane, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 3	Former Heathway Elderly Persons Home, Reddicap Heath Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands	Commercial Vacant	Lot 36	37 Endwood Court Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 70	34 Willow Drive, Tividale, West Midlands	Development Opportunity
Lot 4	Site of 3 Brixham Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Land	Lot 37	2 The Hawthorns, Comberton Road, Kidderminster	Residential Vacant	Lot 71	6 Sedgefield Walk, Catshill, Bromsgrove	Residential Vacant
Lot 5	Land Between 66 & 10 Latelow Road, Stechford, Birmingham	Land	Lot 38	The George Gallagher, Church Street, Brierley Hill	Commercial Vacant	Lot 72	48 Hagley Road, Halesowen, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 6	Land Fronting Wychwood Crescent, Sheldon, Birmingham	Land	Lot 39	154 Windmill Lane, Smethwick	Residential Investment	Lot 73	12A The Island, George Avenue, Tamworth	Residential Vacant
Lot 7	146 Melton Avenue, Solihull, West Midlands	Residential Vacant	Lot 40	120 Neville Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 74	35 Poplar Avenue, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 8	143 George Frederick Road, Streetly, West Midlands	Residential Vacant	Lot 41	1274 Pershore Road, Stinchcombe, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 75	590 College Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 9	79 Marsh Lane, Erdington, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 42	56 Dixon Street, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 76	592 College Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant
Lot 9a	24 Archibald Road, Lozells	Residential Vacant	Lot 43	2 Mansfield Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 77	10 Ropon Road, Walsall	Residential Vacant
Lot 10	The Freebodies Tavern, 69 St Johns Street, Dudley	Commercial Vacant	Lot 44	21-22 Queens Cross, Dudley	Commercial Investment	Lot 78	70 Suffrage Street, Smethwick, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 11	47 Woodgate Lane, Quinton, Birmingham	Commercial Investment	Lot 45	220 Coventry Road, Coleshill, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 79	19 Holte Road, Aston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 12	Howard Court, 2 Montague Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 46	70 King Street, Dudley	Development Opportunity	Lot 80	Flat 6, 64 Church Road, Moseley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 13	Le Manor Hotel, Holyhead Road, Albrington, Wolverhampton	Land	Lot 47	15 Carlyn Road, Atherton, Warwickshire	Commercial Vacant	Lot 81	82-82A Lower Prestwood Road, Wolverhampton	Commercial Vacant
Lot 14	6 St Oswalds Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 48	304 Queens Road, Smethwick	Residential Vacant	Lot 82	47 Gordon Crescent, Brierley Hill	Residential Vacant
Lot 15	33 Moodycroft Road, Kitts Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 49	Gothic Cottage, 14 Hickman Road, Bilston	Residential Investment	Lot 83	39 Fowey Road, Hodge Hill, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 16	140 Lincroft Crescent, Coventry	Residential Vacant	Lot 50	40 New Road, Stourbridge	Commercial Investment	Lot 84	50 Trafalgar Court, New Birmingham Road, Tividale West Midlands	Residential Vacant
Lot 17	11 St Vincents Road, Walton, Stone	Residential Vacant	Lot 51	111-113 Wright Road, Saltley, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 85	47 Keneil Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 18	2-4 Anson Street, Rugeley, Staffordshire	Commercial Vacant	Lot 52	130 Rood End Road, Oldbury, Birmingham	Land	Lot 86	86 Colebrook Road, Shirley, Solihull	Residential Vacant
Lot 19	174 Appleton Avenue, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 53	Land at Lye Cross, Rowley Regis	Residential Investment	Lot 87	1003 Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull	Residential Vacant
Lot 20	112 Court Lane, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 54	10 Bromford Court, Bromford Lane, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 88	111 Dunvegan Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 21	91 Fraser Street, Bilston	Residential Vacant	Lot 55	9 Occupation Street, Dudley	Residential Vacant	Lot 89	85 Walton Road, Oldbury, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 22	21 Grove Road, Solihull, West Midlands	Residential Investment	Lot 55a	Strategic Land, 106 Ivy House Road & Wallace Road, Rowley Regis	Residential Investment	Lot 90	12 Hill Place, Ashmore Park, Wednesfield	Residential Vacant
Lot 23	140 Henwood Road, Compton, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant	Lot 56	27 Gladstone Road, Yardley	Residential Investment	Lot 91	42 Onbury Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 24	552 Coventry Road, Small Heath, Birmingham	Commercial Vacant	Lot 57	45 Ettingshall Road, Coseley	Residential Vacant	Lot 92	8 Woodland House, High Street, Quarry Bank, Dudley	Residential Vacant
Lot 25	The Hill Tavern, Watson Green Road, Dudley	Commercial Vacant	Lot 58	84 Eva Road, Winslow Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 93	12 Inkberrow Road, Halesowen, Birmingham	Part Investment
Lot 26	Bridlewise, Wharf Lane, Lapworth, West Midlands	Residential Vacant	Lot 59	15 Asbury Road, Wednesfield	Residential Vacant	Lot 94	359 Cannock Road, High Town, Cannock	Residential Vacant
Lot 27	42 Croydon Road, Erdington, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 60	305 Birmingham New Road, Dudley	Residential Vacant	Lot 95	1124 Clarence Road, Handsworth, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
Lot 28	Autoscan House, Charlton Street, Oakengates, Telford	Commercial Vacant	Lot 61	30 Bradley Lane, Bilston	Residential Vacant	Lot 96	26 Nine Elms Lane, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 29	15-17 Coventry Street, Kidderminster	Commercial Vacant	Lot 62	78 Park Hall Road, Walsall	Residential Vacant	Lot 97	233 Coleman Street, Wolverhampton	Residential Vacant
Lot 30	117 Greenholme Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Vacant	Lot 63	Ivy Cottage, 37 Illshaw Heath Road, Solihull, West Midlands	Residential Vacant	Lot 98	65 Lawrence Avenue, Wednesfield	Residential Vacant
Lot 31	294 Newton Road, Great Barr, Birmingham	Residential Investment	Lot 64	22 View Drive, Dudley	Residential Vacant	Lot 99	24 Barbara Road, Hall Green, Birmingham	Residential Vacant
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Young family enjoys an 'easy move' to a new Rugeley house

WHEN Pippa Lewitt and Chris Nesbitt found out they were expecting their third child they quickly realised their three-bed semi was no longer going to be big enough.

Then they visited Taylor Wimpey's Levett Grange development in Rugeley – and not a moment too soon as Pippa by then was heavily pregnant. Thanks to the leading housebuilder's easymover scheme, their move a couple of months later to the spacious four-bedroom 'Marlow' detached house was stress-free, even though they now had baby Finley as well as Harry (3) and Archie (1) in tow!

Pippa (33) explains: "We just ran out of room in our old house and wanted to get a bigger property and we've found exactly what we were looking for at Levett Grange. It's all worked out so well."

"When we walked into the house we purchased, we knew it was the one we wanted."

"There's so much space in the hallway, it's like having an extra room to play in. We use the dining room as a play room, because the kitchen is big enough for our table so we have our meals in there. The children are much happier because they've got all the space they need."

Layout

The well-planned layout of the Levett Grange development also appealed to the couple as well as its desirable location on the outskirts of Rugeley.

"We just fell in love with the development," says Pippa. "The houses are well spread out and there's a play area next to the house, which really appealed. Now we're here, it's so handy with three little ones. We can walk out of our front door and the play area is right there!"

The easymover scheme delivered the best of both worlds for the couple – a hassle-free move in which Taylor Wimpey found a buyer for their existing property in Armitage, near Rugeley, and a better price for their old house than they would have received through Part Exchange.

Pippa comments: "Easymover was fantastic from start to finish. We managed to achieve more than we thought using the easymover scheme without the need for Part Exchange. People say moving house is stressful but it wasn't for us – even though Finley was only eight weeks old when we moved in! In fact, it's been a really pleasurable experience."

The family have now settled down to life in their new home. Chris (29) takes the train to his job with Yellow Pages



Pippa Lewitt and Chris Nesbitt, along with their sons Harry, Archie and Finlay are enjoying life in their new home at Taylor Wimpey's Levett Grange development in Birmingham, while Harry starts at the nursery based at Chancel Primary School in September.

There's a selection of four-bedroom detached properties currently available at Levett Grange, priced from just £194,995. The development is located in Wolseley Road on the outskirts of Rugeley and enjoys a spacious layout including secluded cul-de-sacs and attractive landscaped avenues.

Levett Grange Sales Centre is located in Wolseley Road, Rugeley, WS15 2FB, open daily from 11am to 5pm. Or the Sales Executive can be contacted on 0845 072 9858. Further information on Taylor Wimpey developments across the region is available by calling 01543 496 700, or visit the Taylor Wimpey website at www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/northmids.

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- Two Large Reception Rooms
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- Off Road Parking

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**Bloxwich
Lichfield Road**

- Extended Four/Five Bed Semi-Detached
- Three Reception Rooms●Kitchen
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- Attic Bedroom
- Integral Garage & Off Road Parking

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**Bloxwich
Kedleston Close**

- Four Bedroom Detached
- Lounge●Dining Room●Kitchen
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- Guest Cloakroom●Conservatory
- Family Bathroom●Detached Garage

In the Region of £239,950



**Bloxwich
Belfry Close**

- Four Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating●D.Glazing
- Garage●Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking●No Upward Chain

Offers in excess of £219,950



**Bloxwich
Field road**

- Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Fully Re-Furbished●Two Reception Rooms
- Re-Fitted Kitchen●Conservatory
- Utility Room/WC●Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden●Garages & Workshop

In the Region of £199,000



**Essington
Albany Grove**

- Four Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Kitchen●Conservatory
- Family Bathroom●Front & Rear Gardens
- Carport & Garage●Driveway

Offers in excess of £195,000



**Bloxwich
Birkdale Road**

- Three Bedroom Detached
- Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room
- Newly Fitted Family Bathroom
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Integral Garage●Off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £195,000



**Bloxwich
Ambergate Close**

- Extended Four Bed Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms●Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bathrooms●Off Road Parking
- D.Glazing & G.C.Heating
- Well Presented Rear Garden

In the Region £195,000



**Bloxwich
Lytham Grove**

- Three Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms●Fitted Kitchen
- Cloakroom W.C.●En-Suite
- Solid Timber Flooring●Family Bathroom
- Conservatory●Integral Garage

Offers in excess of £194,000



**Willenhall
Crab Lane**

- Four Bedroom Link-Detached
- Lounge●Kitchen●Family Bathroom
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- First Floor Shower Room●Utility Room
- Garage & Off Road Parking●Gardens

In the Region of £183,950



**Bloxwich
Lydford Road**

- Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Lounge●Kitchen●Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage & Off Road Parking
- Corner Plot Location

In the Region of £180,000



**Bloxwich
Selsdon Road**

- Three Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen●Family Bathroom
- Family Bathroom●Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage & Off Road Parking

In the Region of £179,950



**Willenhall
Wood Lane**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen●Family Bathroom
- Conservatory●Garage/Workshop
- Gardens●Off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £170,000



**Walsall
Leamore Lane**

- Three Bedroom Town House
- Kitchen/Diner●Shower●Cloakroom W.C.
- First Floor Lounge●Family Bathroom
- En-Suite Shower Room●Gardens
- Detached Garage

In the Region of 145,950



**Walsall
Lilac Avenue**

- Three Bed Semi-Detached
- Lounge●Dining Room●Front Room
- Extended Feature Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom●Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating●Off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £140,000



**Walsall
Little Island Drive**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge●Dining Room●Driveway
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Family Bathroom●Integral Garage
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing

Offers in excess of £140,000



**Bloxwich
Drake Road**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge●Kitchen●Family Bathroom
- Extended Dining Room
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage & Off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £129,950



**Rushall
King George Crescent**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen●Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing●Gas Central Heating
- Gardens●Driveway●NO CHAIN

In the Region of £125,000



**Walsall
Smiths Flour Mill**

- Two Bedroom Penthouse Apartment
- Lounge●Integrated Kitchen
- Electric Heating & Double Glazing
- Allocated Parking●Family Bathroom
- Many Upgrades (Please ask for Details)

Offers in excess of £125,000



**Bloxwich
Glenesgables Road**

- Two Bed Terrace
- Lounge●Diner
- Bathroom Double Glazing
- Central Heating●Front Driveaway
- Rear Garden

Offers in excess of £115,000



**Willenhall
Rosewood Drive**

- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Lounge●Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing●Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £109,000



**Walsall
Edinburgh Lane**

- Extended Two Bed Semi
- Kitchen●Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom Double Glazed
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden●Off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £105,000



**Rushall
Springfields**

- Three Bedroom End Terrace
- Entrance Hall●Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner●Bathroom
- Patio Area●Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing●Front & Rear Gardens

Offers in excess of £98,950



**Willenhall
Argyll Court, Essington Road**

- Two Bed Ground Floor Apartment
- Inner Reception Hall●Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen●Allocated Parking
- Intercom Access●Family Bathroom
- D.Glazing & G.C.Heating

In the Region of £91,950



**Bloxwich
Victoria Avenue**

- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms●Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Boarded Loft with Velux Window
- Rear Garden with Side Plot●Parking

In the Region of £89,950



**Walsall
Northcote Street**

- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms●Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Rear Courtyard & Garden
- Double Glazing●Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £89,950



**Walsall
Alumwell Road**

- One Bed Semi-Detached Bungalow
- Lounge●Country Style' Kitchen
- Recently Refitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Mature Rear Garden●Front Garden

In the Region of £89,950



**Willenhall
Squires Grove**

- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Double Glazing & Electric Heating
- Allocated Parking●NO CHAIN

£88,000



**Walsall
Manorhouse Close**

- Two Bedroom Top Floor Apartment
- Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
- Double Glazing●Central Heating
- Family Bathroom●Lounge/Kitchen
- Cloakroom/Storage Cupboard

Offers in excess of £84,950



**Bloxwich
Fishtley Court, Fishtley Lane**

- One Bed Top Floor Apartment
- Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom
- Allocated Parking
- Communal Entrance
- Double Glazing●Central Heating

In the Region of £79,995



**Walsall
Jubilee Close**

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms●Kitchen
- Fitted Kitchen●Veranda
- Family Bathroom
- Veranda●Front & Rear Gardens
- Central Heating & D.Glazing

In the Region of £78,000



**Walsall
Fleming Road**

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace House
- Lounge●Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen●Veranda
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens●NO CHAIN

Offers in excess of £75,000



**Bloxwich
Evesham Crescent**

- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
- Lounge●Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £75,000



**Willenhall
Argyll Court, Essington Road**

- One Bed Ground Floor Flat
- Lounge with Storage/Cloak Cupboard
- Fitted Kitchen●Bathroom
- Shared Communal Gardens
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £66,950



**Bloxwich
Green Lane**

- Two Bed Ground Floor Flat
- Lounge with Storage/Cloak Cupboard
- Fitted Kitchen●Bathroom
- Shared Communal Gardens
- Off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £60,000

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Clarence Road
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• 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
• Gas Centrally Heated
• UPVC Double Glazing (where specified)
• Reception Hall
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£90,000

Steven Drive
Bilston **REDUCED**



• Modern Semi-Detached
• 2 Bedrooms
• Gas Central Heating
• UPVC Double Glazing
OFFERS OVER:
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£90,000

Bulger Road
Bilston **REDUCED**



• Extended Traditional Semi Detached Residence
• PVC Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
• Reception Hall
• Through Lounge
OFFERS OVER:
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£90,000

Meldon Drive
Bilston **REDUCED**



• Spacious End Terraced House with No Upward Chain!
• Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)
• Reception Hall
• Lounge
OFFERS OVER:
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£90,000

Crawford Avenue
Darlaston



• 3 Bedroom Mid Townhouse
• Cul-de-Sac Location
• Gas Central Heating
• UPVC Double Glazing (where specified)
OFFERS AROUND:
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£94,995

Uplands Avenue
Willenhall



• Immaculately Presented Detached Bungalow
• Lounge
• Dining Room
• Fitted Kitchen
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£145,000

Lawnside Green
Bilston **REDUCED**



• Three Bedroom End of Terrace
• NO UPWARD CHAIN
• Central Heating
• UPVC double glazing (where specified)
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£74,950

Poplar Road
Wednesbury **REDUCED**



• A Spacious 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
• Gas Central Heating
• Double Glazing (as specified)
• Reception Hall
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

£118,000

Cherrywood Green
Bilston



• Modern Mid Terrace
• Ideal First Time Purchase
• Reception Hall & Guest Wc
• Fitted Kitchen
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£80,000

Baldwin Street
Bilston



• Detached Bungalow with no chain!
• 2 double bedrooms
• Porch
• Lounge
OFFERS OVER:
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£106,000

Bloxwich Road South
Willenhall



• 9 x Brand new Apartments
• UPVC double & triple glazing
• Gas central heating
• Allocated parking spaces
OFFERS AROUND:
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£69,950

Thorne Road
Willenhall



• Two Bedroom Semi Detached
• Newly Fitted Kitchen
• Newly Fitted Bathroom
• Dressing Area To Bedroom One
OFFERS AROUND:
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£99,950

Fawley Close
Willenhall



• 3 Bed Detached House
• UPVC double glazing
• Entrance Hall
• Fitted Kitchen Diner
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£149,950

Delamere Road
Willenhall



• Well Presented Semi-Detached
• 3 Good Bedrooms
• Gas Central Heating
• Upvc Double Glazing
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£134,950

Cedar Road
Willenhall



• Extended Semi-Detached
• 3 Bedrooms with Balcony off Master
• Double Glazing
• Warm air Central Heating
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£134,950

Mill Lane
Willenhall



• Substantial Detached House
• 5 Bedrooms
• Central Heating and Double Glazing
• No Upward Chain
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£285,000

Cedar Road
Willenhall



• 2 Bedroom Semi Bungalow
• In Need of Upgrading
• Cul-de-Sac Location
• Gas Central Heating
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£75,000

Uplands Grove
Willenhall



• Extended Semi-Detached
• Central Heating and Double Glazing
• Quiet Cul-De-Sac Location
• No Upward Chain
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£105,000

Sandringham Avenue
Willenhall



• Three bed detached
• 20ft Rear Garden With Decked Area
• 20ft Lounge
• Guest W.C.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£180,000

Hawkeswell Drive
Willenhall



• Modern Semi Detached
• Two Bedrooms
• Gas Central Heating
• UPVC double glazed window
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£110,000

Terrance Villas
Darlaston



• Extended Semi-detached
• Improved And Upgraded
• 5 Bedrooms
• Central heating and double glazing
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01302 633323

£199,950

Poole's Lane
Willenhall



• Extended Semi-Detached
• Much Improved
• 2 Bedrooms
• Central Heating and Double Glazing
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01302 633323

£119,950

High Street
Wednesbury



• 3 Bedroom End Terrace Home
• Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
• Storm Porch & Reception Hall
• Spacious Lounge with Feature Fireplace
OFFERS AROUND:
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Broad Lane South
Wolverhampton



• Impressive Family Home
• Extended and Upgraded
• Sought After Location
• 4 Good Bedrooms
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Wolverhampton



• 4 Bedroom Detached
• Much Improved
• Central Heating and Double Glazing
• Solar Panels & Water Heating
OFFERS AROUND:
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£340,000

James Close
Wednesbury **NEW**



• A Modern 3 Bedroom, 3 Storey End Terrace
• Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
• No Upward Chain!
• Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

£130,000

Western Avenue
Walsall



• Terraced Property
• Three Bedrooms
• Parking To The Rear
• No Upward Chain
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£77,950

James Street
Willenhall



• Spacious Traditional Semi
• 3 Double Bedrooms
• Central Heating and Part Double Glazing
• Downstairs Location Close to Park
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£175,000

Stanton Avenue
Dudley



• 3 Bedroom Semi
• Fully Refurbished to High Standard
• New Central Heating and Double Glazing
• Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£125,000

Frost Street
Wolverhampton



• Spacious 3 Storey Town-House
• 3/4 Bedrooms
• Reception Hall
• 2 Double Glazing Rooms
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£95,000

Eaton Rise
Willenhall



• Extended Detached Bungalow
• Generous Corner Plot
• 3 Bedrooms
• Adjoining 33ft Annex
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£179,995

Foxlands Avenue
Wolverhampton



• Immaculately Presented Traditional Detached Residence
• Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location
• Conveniently Located for Favourable Local Schools
• Pleasant Views of South Staffordshire Countryside
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

£269,950

Banks Street
Willenhall



• Period Semi-Detached
• TOTALLY REFURBISHED
• Re-fitted Breakfast Kitchen with integrated dishwasher
• Re-fitted Bathroom with shower
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£170,000

Moxley Road
Wednesbury **NEW**



• A 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Home
• Gas Central Heating
• Double Glazing (as specified)
• Reception Hall
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

£114,995

Sneyd Lane
Wolverhampton



• Modern spacious extended detached
• Three bedrooms
• Fitted alarm
• Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£215,000

Noose Lane
Willenhall



• Large Detached Bungalow
• 3 Double Bedrooms
• Central Heating and Majority Double Glazing
• Living Room
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 01902 633323

£189,950

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VIRTUAL TOURS

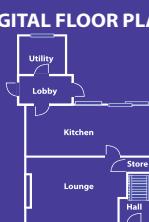


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- Ground Floor Cloakroom/WC
- Integral Garage

OFFERS £145,000



AVON DRIVE, KINGFISHER ESTATE

- Three Bed Semi
- Larger than average corner plot
- Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Guest Cloakroom
- Detached Garage

OFFERS £139,950



WORCESTER ROAD,
WILLENHALL

- Three Bedroomed Semi
- Gas Central Heating
- Extensive Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Off-road Parking Facilities

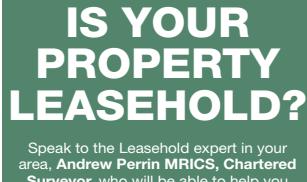
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- Quiet Residential Development for over 55's
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- Parking Space and Communal Gardens

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- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen With Oven
- GCH & DG & Outhouse
- Driveway & Gardens

£525pcm



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- Detached Property
- Refurbished
- Three Bedrooms
- Dining/Kitchen
- Lounge & Bathroom
- UPVC DG & GCH

£475pcm



MALKIT CLOSE, WALSALL

- Semi-Detached
- Two Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Dining Room
- Lounge & Shower Room
- Parking
- GCH & DG

£465pcm



GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL

- End Terraced House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
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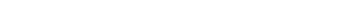
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Made in Essex: engineers at Ford's design centre make the case for petrol



The new Focus has added eagerness on display when cornering

Ford's new petrol unit puts diesel to the test

By Ian Donaldson

AMAZING but true, the fine-driving Ford Focus is now at its finest with the smallest engine in the range. And driven gently you'll be saving the planet while having fun.

Until recently diesel power looked like the conventional answer to better fuel figures: simpler and cheaper than adding batteries and electric motors. More sure of a result, too.

But with tough new Euro laws about tailpipe pollution on the near horizon it's going to be expensive to make diesels comply, so car makers are turning back to petrol power.

Now, from Ford's European engine design centre in deepest Essex, comes perhaps the most convincing case yet that there's life left in petrol.

With a mere three cylinders (four is the usual minimum) and capacity of just one litre, this is a little engine for sure, taking up less space and weighing lots less than the 1.6 litre lump it's designed to make redundant.

It also posts a 66.5mpg diesel-like economy figure in the official Euro tests every new car has to endure, but more of this later. All is not what it seems when the rules have to be observed.

The high-tech content of the new engine (with an expensive turbocharger included) means you'll pay £250 extra for the little 'un' under the bonnet, compared to the current 1.6 which produces the same 125 horsepower but does less well in the official economy tests.

At £17,945 for the likely most popular Zetec version, the Focus is not a cheap car. Splashes of sporting red inside the car added a visual lift, helped by a Persil-white paint job.

It doesn't take long (well, moving off from rest will do it) to realise Ford's bevy of Essex engineers have come up with a gem.

It sounds eager in a distant and charmingly thrummy way and any fears that the tiny powerplant might shake itself to pieces is banished as you engage the clutch and pull smoothly away.

With the turbo puffing fuel and air into the engine from low revs you'd never believe there was an engine up front that some motorcyclists would consider insultingly small.

Terrier

It pulls like a terrier hanging on to a bone and the new lightness up front means the Focus, already a nimble-feeling car, gains a delightful edge of added eagerness when you turn the wheel for a corner.

This latest version of the Focus has been gently chided for a lack of driving delight compared to earlier models. If that was true, it is no more with this minimally engined model.

But we must now cut to the chase. Driving delight is but an incidental in this car's battery of pluses. It exists to make a gallon of petrol go a long way, and as closely matched to a diesel as possible.

Good for Ford, there was an old-engined 1.6 litre petrol model available for a drive before jumping into the new baby. First impressions, as always, were of a car designed to please a keen driver.

At the end of the shortish test the trip computer showed I'd managed 38mpg over a mix of country roads and edge-of-town work, none of it good at making the most of the contents of the tank.

Switching into the new 1.0-litre machine it was hard not to enjoy its delights, although even at modest speed the way it answers the helm will make any driving enthusiast smile.

And at the end of the same test route... the same answer on the dash: 38mpg.

I don't doubt that with restraint that figure will improve, perhaps greatly. As it stands I need longer with the car - not a hardship and something I look forward to.

The future may have arrived. I hope so.



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CHRONICLE MOTORING Powered by motors.co.uk

City is revving up to mark link with motoring history

COVENTRY'S connections with the motor trade will be the focus of celebrations this weekend when the city's university hosts Coventry Car Day.

The event, on Saturday June 9, is free for all visitors, and is a celebration of past, present and future cars in Coventry.

It will be held in University Square, near Coventry Cathedral, and the new Hub student building.

Coventry University will be showing over 70 veteran and vintage cars, classics, current production cars, concepts, race cars and many more.

Among the extensive array on display will be a rather special Aston Martin DB7 Vantage as well as the Coventry Transport Museum's own Alvis Speed 25 and British-built, electric vehicle The Lightning GT.

Other makes include Peugeot, Jaguar, Ferrari, Mercedes-Benz and Triumph.

Coventry Car Day is bound to be celebrating cars from one end of the scale to the other starting with the Ford Evos concept car, with its futuristic gull-wing doors, which will make its UK public debut in Coventry following its starring appearance in the Frankfurt show in 2011, to the Ford Model T.

Influential

The charming 101-year-old Ford is owned by local enthusiast Nigel Hugo and the model is often regarded as the most influential car of the 20th century.

The cars are not the only attraction. A symposium, held between 9am and 1pm, will feature academic and industry speakers debating the future of the car.

Thanks to Peugeot's support of the event the symposium will be free for all visitors, however numbers are limited and so online registration is essential.

Those wishing to attend this debate can register at eventsforce.net.

For those who want to take their passion for motor vehicles further, an informative careers event will take place between 11am and 2pm, attended by automotive employers and organisations, such as Land Rover, Nissan and the Guild of Motoring Writers.



Cars old and new will be on display in historic Coventry

Coventry University's own careers and employability team will join these industry professionals.

Other highlights of the day are Sir Nick Scheels annual Bugatti Lecture, which will concern the British Motor industry over the

years and its future prospects, beginning at 1.30pm, and a Car Question Time, held between 3 and 4pm, chaired by Autocar's Steve Cropley.

Visitors are advised to register to attend these events at Coventry.ac.uk/Coventrycarday.



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SPORT

Wolves in fight, but Robins chirping

Wolves 42 Swindon 48

FOUR-MAN Wolves did their best to stave off powerful Swindon – but finally fell to a second Elite League speedway home defeat.

Wolves, shorn of their top three, were always playing catch-up – not least from the gate, where the visitors were super-sharp.

Yet the home team, despite fielding only four scoring riders, somehow levered themselves four points ahead with as many heats to run only for Swindon to move into top gear and have the match won with a race to spare.

A night of superb racing in front of a big crowd ended on a rancorous note in the final heat. Swindon, with three league points in the bag, had lost any chance of a fourth when Parrys International Wolves guest Chris Harris raced clear.

Hans Andersen, who had led Swindon well, was a comfortable second with home rider Robert Miskowiak third.

Incensed

Yet Andersen slowed dramatically into the final turn, forcing Miskowiak wide before running him out to the fence and allowing partner Jason Doyle through.

The incensed Wolves short-term signing cut back, even elbowing Andersen in the run to the line but ended up fourth by about half a wheel.

It seemed a foolhardy and dangerous manoeuvre by the experienced Andersen, gaining Doyle a second place but risking a great deal more to Miskowiak.

Wolves tried might and main to live with the men from Wiltshire, the spectacular Harris involved in the best of the action.

Against the team-riding pair of Troy Batchelor and Doyle in heat four, with the inside and outside runs both apparently blocked, he opted for the middle and sliced his way between the Robins duo on the second-lap exit from behind two.

Wolves got a break in heat 10 when Peter Kildemand's tumble impeded partner Doyle. A brilliant Ty Proctor-Ricky Wells 5-1 in the next looked to have put them on the way, but the Robins fought back.

Wolves: Chris Harris 16, Ricky Wells 10-2, Robert Miskowiak 9-2, Ty Proctor 7-1, Pontus Aspgreen 0, Matt Wethers 0.

Swindon: Jason Doyle 15-2, Hans Andersen 11-1, Peter Kildemand 7, Troy Batchelor 7, Robin Aspgreen 3-2, Simon Stead 3-1, Nick Morris 2-1.



Sikh Hunters players line up to face the camera at the Khalsa football federation tournament where they won two of the sections

Triple triumph for the Hunters

A WALSALL football club is celebrating a triple trophy success.

Sikh Hunters FC entered the Khalsa football federation tournament hosted by Walsall Asian Sports Association at Aston University's playing fields.

Teams journeyed from all over the country to participate in adult and youth sections.

Sikh Hunters won both the under-nine and under-11 sections, the former going through the event without conceding a goal.

The results followed victory for the under-10 side who won the Sandwell Minor League cup.

Title tilt is lost, but bout is real belter

WALSALL'S Joel Ryan

pushed Chris Higgs all the way but ultimately conceded the British Masters title to the hometown fighter in a belter of a contest at the GL1 Leisure Centre, Gloucester.

Ryan lost 98-93 on points in the main event after 10 rounds. The margin in favour of Higgs, from neighbouring Lydney, was arguably harsh on the beaten man.

His eyes firmly fixed on upsetting the apple cart and taking the vacant belt back to the West Midlands, Ryan let Higgs know from the opening bell that he hadn't come to roll over.

The 22-year-old didn't wait for his opponent, getting in his face and setting a pace with a high volume of punches, all with considerable weight behind them. Rounds three and four saw Ryan start to break through, rocking Higgs' head back with right hooks.

Higgs was tapping Ryan to the side of the head with clear but unloaded shots and using his foot-work to out of trouble.

Ryan was guilty of failing to work the body by way of an answer, particularly as both fighters were spending a lot of time clutching and jostling for position.

Going into the ninth round, Ryan was behind on referee Bob Williams' scorecard and was forced back on the offensive to look for a stoppage and, by the end of the session, Ryan was back on top. He left it all on a frantic and entertaining last round where the 'away' fighter went for the KO.

The fitness of both fighters – who had never been past eight rounds – held out as Higgs tucked up whilst Ryan punched himself out.

At the final bell, referee Williams had Ryan down 98-93, giving him just two clear rounds to Higgs' seven, with one drawn session.

Raging Bull's story is returning to screen

JAKE LaMOTTA insists his life story will again be immortalised on the silver screen.

The 90-year-old, world champion from 1949-51, confirmed a second film is being made about his life. He revealed the plan at a sportsman's dinner at the Mount Hotel in Tettenhall, Wolverhampton.

The news came 32 years after 'Raging Bull' – starring Robert De Niro as LaMotta and directed by Martin Scorsese – dominated the 1980 Academy Awards.

And there will be a sequel – with William Forsythe attached to star both before and after his pro boxing career – hot on the heels of documentary called 'Moving Ahead'.

LaMotta said: "Raging Bull Two is coming out and it's going to talk about my early age in boxing."

"But there's going to be a documentary coming out right before that, it's in the works."

Sparring

"Two more beautiful things are going to happen in my life and I don't know if I deserve it, or do I?"

"I have spoken to William Forsythe and I think he will do a good job."

"I am curious to see how it's going to come out. Robert was a great actor and, by the time I got done with him, he could have fought professionally."

"That's how good he was, he was fantastic."

"In the beginning, when we were sparring, he was afraid to hit me."

"I said to him: 'You can hit me all you want, because you are not going to hurt me.'

by Craig Birch

"I wanted to play myself in the movie but the producer said I wasn't the type!"

LaMotta has been

married a further three times and aged 46 years since the timescale of the original 'Raging Bull' came to an end. Today, he's engaged to be wed for a sixth time, to fiancée Denise.

That happiness contrasts with his most infamous act, openly throwing a fight for the Mafia against Billy Fox in 1947.

That got the New York-born Italian-American his world title-winning shot against Marcel Cerdan in 1949 and it still cuts deep – in the film version he wept in the dressing room.

He said: "It was a tough and rough era and it was the Mafia era. They had a lot to say and do in that time."

"They made me do something I didn't want to do so I could get the chance to fight for the middleweight championship of the world."

"And if I had to do it all over again, I think I would have done the same thing."

Jonker leads the way as Gorway men go nap

PREMIER Division leaders Walsall seized a fifth straight win in the Birmingham League.

And South African batsman Christian Jonker was again leading from the front.

Jonker did well in his first season with Walsall last year, when he also contributed with the ball.

But this time round Jonker is opening the batting and concentrating on that part of his game.

The benefits were there to see as the leaders continued to set the pace at the top of the table.

Jonker plundered an unbeaten 132 as Walsall cantered to a nine-wicket success at Wellington.

Relying to the home side's 193, Jonker made short work of the victory chase with 13 fours and six sixes in his 90-ball innings.

Ben McFarlane had earlier bagged 3-41 with the ball for Walsall.

Walsall also took some benefit from the check to Wolverhampton's early-season charge.

The Danescourt men suffered an off-day with the bat in a second successive defeat as they were rolled over for 93 in a five-wicket loss to Berkswell.



Adam Byram gets a life as Walsall wicketkeeper James Middleton spills a chance

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Unbeaten cruisers in clash at Civic Hall

WALSALL'S Christopher Keane has been added to the televised BoxNation bill at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on June 22 in a 10-round test. The 26-year-old will take on Scotland's Stephen Simmonds and someone's unbeaten record as a cruiserweight in the paid ranks will go.

Keane won the 2009 ABA super heavyweight title while Simmonds, from Edinburgh, took bronze as a heavyweight at the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

Both are undefeated as professionals with Keane scoring two stoppings in six wins while Simmonds, 27, has the same wins inside the distance from four fights.

The main event for the Civic show has been changed after British cruiserweight champion Enzo Maccarinelli pulled out with a hand injury.

Maccarinelli had been due to defend against Shane McPhilbin in a rematch, after their controversial first fight where the belt changed hands at the Civic in March.

But Norfolk's Liam Walsh will now headline in a 12-round fight, in what is likely to be a defence of his Commonwealth super-featherweight title.

In another match of two undefeated fighters, Coseley's Jamie Ball and double national champion Michal Pechacek will now compete for a title.

Ball, the Midlands champion, will duel with the Czech Republic and Slovakia belt holder for the vacant International Masters light middleweight crown.

For more information and tickets, call the box office on 0870 320 7000 or promoter Paul 'PJ' Rowson on 07976 283 157.

Lunch date with legend of cricket

ALL-TIME cricket great Sir Garfield Sobers is heading to the West Midlands.

Himley CC will put on a sporting lunch at The Venue, Dudley with the star on Friday, June 22.

The West Indian, named cricket's greatest all-rounder by authoritative website cricinfo, had a Test batting average of over 57 and also took more than 200 Test wickets.

Tickets cost £40. Details: 07814 619447, 07861 800510 or 07973 266058.



Perton FC's under-10s at the Leicester City ground

Just Topps!

TEAMS from Walsall and Wolverhampton were among 28 youth football sides taking part in the fifth annual Topps Tiles tournament at Leicester City's King Power Stadium home.

Perton FC under-10s had a draw and two defeats while Walsall club St John's Colts fielded teams in the under-eight, under-10 and under-12 boys categories. The under-eights had a draw and three losses and the under-10s three defeats while the under-12s had a draw and two losses.

Richard Carter, operations director at Topps Tiles, said: "The annual youth tournament at Leicester City FC is fantastic to be part of and always has a huge turnout. This year was a phenomenal success and the standard of football was fantastic."



St John's Colts in action at the King Power Stadium

CALLED-UP GRIGG THANKS HIS BOSS

WILL GRIGG has insisted he always believed he would rediscover his goal touch and has thanked Walsall boss Dean Smith for keeping faith in him.

The striker started Northern Ireland's 6-0 defeat by Holland in Amsterdam on Saturday despite scoring just four goals last season. His first call-up came after he ended a seven-month goal drought with the winner in the final-day 1-0 victory at MK Dons last month.

And the 20-year-old felt he would come good thanks to Smith's backing.

"I wasn't too worried," he said. The gaffer said he knew what I could do, but I got a hamstring injury late in the season which was very frustrating.

"The gaffer picked me for the first few games of the season.

"I scored at Sheffield United and against Carlisle but then it was just one of those things.

Great

"Things were not happening for me in the matches and he dropped me but kept telling me to keep going.

"The gaffer has been great. I broke through under Chris Hutchings but Dean Smith came in and pushed me on. It has been a great learning curve."

Northern Ireland Michael O'Neill says Grigg must not be haunted by the nightmare international debut.

He became the Saddlers' first senior international for two years in the 6-0 mauling.

O'Neill gave bows to Grigg, Coventry's James McPake and Burnley's Daniel Lafferty as he tested them ahead of their 2014 World Cup qualifying campaign.

The statement said: "We thank him for his service over the years and wish him well for the future."

by Nick Mashiter



Orange crush – Holland's Ron Vlaar pressures Will Grigg in the 6-0 thrashing suffered by Northern Ireland

Five-star
Fifth win takes
Walsall to top
Page 43



Bull is back
Legend LaMotta
meets his fans
Page 43

e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Moxey will fight to keep hold of stars

WOLVES will fight to keep their top players this summer and have promised: "Nobody will leave this club unless it's at the right price."

Chief executive Jez Moxey is preparing to lead the struggle to keep top targets Steven Fletcher and Matt Jarvis at Molineux.

The goalscoring pair head the list of candidates likely to attract offers from the Premier League that Wolves left behind with last season's relegation. But both are under contract and will be subject to valuations in excess of £10m.

And Moxey is adamant Wolves are in a strong enough position to stick to their guns.

He said: "We're prepared for the fight. Because of the strict fiscal policies we have implemented over the years, we're in a strong position to call the shots."

"We have not got a bank saying: 'You need to reduce your overheads.'

"We have not got a third party club saying: 'We know you are in the mire – we will help you by buying so-and-so but, obviously, at a discount rate.'

"None of that will be happening. Nobody will leave this football club unless it's at the right price."

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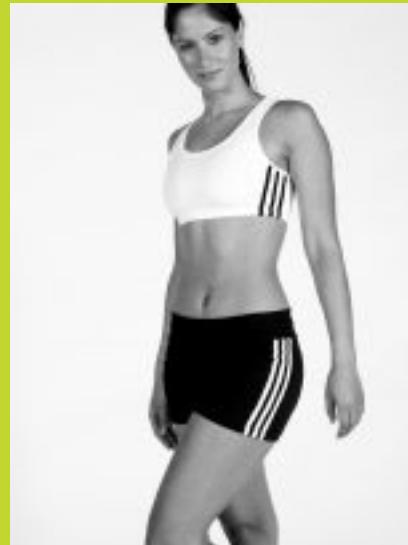
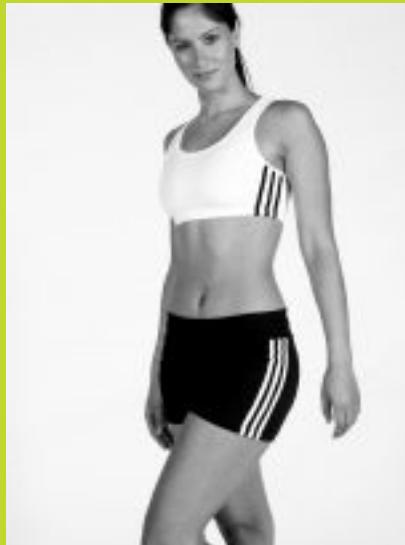
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